FBIS DAILY REPORT

CONTENTS

Soviet Union

Vol III No 43

3 March 1978

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

DISARMAMENT & SALT

SALT Delegations Hold Meeting on 2 March AA 1
Military Industry's Influence Countered By Peace Forces [Pavlov in SELSKAYA ZHIZN 26 Feb] AA 1
Nongovernmental Disarmament Meeting Ends in Geneva AA 3

CSCE/MBFR

Bulgarian Paper Cited on Belgrade CSCE Final Document BB 1
CSCE Delegates Progress Toward Brief Final Document BB 1
TASS Reports CSCE Final Draft Document Submitted BB 2
West Build-up of Europe Troops Obstruct Vienna Talks [Maslov] BB 2

GENERAL

Belgrade, Middle East, Japan Situations Reviewed [Modenov in TRUD 28 Feb] A 1
OPEC Expresses Concern Over Fall of Dollar, U.S. Policy [Stoklitskiy] A 2

UNITED STATES

Brzezinski's Position on Somalia, SALT Contradictory B 1
Provocative, Misleading Statement [Soltan] B 1
Atherton's Mideast Settlement Efforts 'Futile' [Rassadin] B 2
Impartiality of Recent U.S. Decisions on Mideast Denied [Gudkov in NOVOYE VREMYA 24 Feb] B 2
U.S. Envoy Faces Long, Complex Talks in Ankara [Akhmedzyanov in IZVESTIYA 25 Feb] B 5
Danish Leader's Statements Encourage Neutron Deployment [Navitskiy] B 5
U.S. Troop Buildup in Panama Viewed With Alarm [Zafesov in PRAVDA 27 Feb] B 6
Haig Speech on Military Budget Warns of Soviet Menace [Orlov] B 7
'Forward Bases' Strategy Reflects U.S. Expansionism [Mkrtchyan in IZVESTIYA 28 Feb] B 8

CHINA

Peking's Call to Chinese Abroad Threatens Asian Peace C 1

EAST EUROPE

Meeting of Socialist Countries' Parties Summed Up D 1
[Yakovlev]
Ponomarev, Zimyanin Return Home From Conference D 2
Mazurov, Dolgikh At Bulgarian Envoy's Moscow Reception D 2
Kuznetsov Heads Delegation at Sofia Meeting D 2
Kuznetsov Addresses Meeting [cross reference] D 2
Gierek Receives LCY's Dolanc in Warsaw; Holds Talks D 2
Kuznetsov, Poland's Olszewski at Credentials Ceremony D 3
[PRAVDA 28 Feb]
GDR's Sindermann Stops in Moscow En Route to India D 3
[PRAVDA 28 Feb]

WEST EUROPE & CANADA

Upcoming Election Campaign in France Examined E 1
[Kharlanov in PRAVDA 1 Mar]
France's U.S. Envoy Favors Neutron Weapon for U.S. Army E 3
[Andreyev]
German CP Leader Mies Urges End to Arms Race E 3

MIDDLE EAST & NORTH AFRICA

No Worthwhile Results from Owen's Tel Aviv Talks F 1
Israel Continues To Violate Lebanese Border F 1
Problems of Palestinian Arabs Caused by Israel F 1
[V. Aleksandrov]
No Changes Envisaged in Israeli Settlements Policy F 2
[Vinogradov in KRASNAYA ZVEZDA 1 Mar]
Aims, Attitudes of World Zionist Congress Explored F 3
[Yevseyev in PRAVDA 28 Feb]
Briefs: Syrian Land Reclamation F 3

EASTERN MEDITERRANEAN

Cyprus Hearings Reveal Falsity of Egyptian Statements G 1
Various Aspects of USSR-Turkish Relations Viewed G 1
[AZIYA I AFRIKA SEGODNYA]

SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA

Further Material on 'Internal Settlement' in Rhodesia H 1
U.S. Statement [Rusakov in PRAVDA 1 Mar] H 1
Reaction of Africans [Matyash] H 1
Hopes of Imperialists [Kulik] H 2
Mengistu Denounces NATO Plans Against Ethiopia H 3
Death of Ethiopian Council Member Reported H 4
Imperialists Continue Armed Provocations of Angola H 4
[Raikerus]

SOUTH ASIA

Arkhipov Lauds Ties at Opening of Indian Steel Mill J 1
[PRAVDA 27 Feb]
Arkhipov Group in Delhi J 1

Indian Minister Reiterates Position on Diego Garcia J 1
Kosygin Congratulates Sri Lanka Leader on Appointment J 2
USSR Extends Medical Aid to Afghanistan J 2

SOUTHEAST ASIA

U.S. Attempts To Militarize ASEAN Discussed K 1
[Vinogradov in KRASNAYA ZVEZDA 26 Feb]

INDOCHINA

'Medieval Barbarity' Characterizes Cambodian Actions L 1
[Nikolayeva in NOVOYE VREMYA, No 9, 24 Feb]
VNA Report on SRV Repulse of Cambodian Troops Cited L 2
Hanoi Meeting on Utilization of Mekong Basin Held L 2

NATIONAL AFFAIRS

POLITICAL & SOCIAL DEVELOPMENTS

PRAVDA on Progress in Achieving 25th CPSU Congress Goals R 1
[Editorial 24 Feb]
Verification Standard in Fulfilling Decisions Scored R 3
[PRAVDA 25 Feb]
Academy of Sciences Statement Condemns Neutron Bomb R 5
Masherov Cites Cinema's Strength as Educational Medium R 5
[SOVETSKAYA BELORUSSIYA 22 Feb]
Romanov Attends Leningrad City Soviet Meeting R 5

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENTS

Soviet Worker's Living Standards Continue to Improve S 1
Briefs: Mayskiy GRES; Bibobidzhan Power Transformers; S 1
Armenian Civil Aviation

AGRICULTURAL AFFAIRS

Radio Reports 1-3 Mar Agricultural Progress T 1
Heavy Snowfalls in Kazakhstan Promises Good Crops T 1

SCIENTIFIC AFFAIRS

Molniya-1 Communications Satellite Launched 3 Mar U 1
Salyut-6 Complex Continues Flight, Experiments U 1
Soyuz-28 Launched With Czechoslovak Cosmonaut Aboard U 1
Soyuz-28 To Land 8 Mar [Prague] U 2
Biography of Soviet Cosmonaut U 2
Biography of CSSR Cosmonaut U 3
Shatalov on Soyuz-28 Mission [Zheleznov] U 3
CSSR's Lenart Praises Mission [Zheleznov] U 5
Cosmonauts Correct Trajectory U 5
Cosmonauts Start Second Working Day U 5
Briefs: Priboy Pacific Voyage U 5

MILITARY DEVELOPMENTS

Ogarkov Holds Talks With Vietnamese Military Official V 1
[KRASNAYA ZVEZDA 1 Mar]
Vietnamese, DPRK Delegations End Visit [KRASNAYA ZVEZDA 1 Mar] V 1
KGB Border Troops Party Secretaries Hold Conference V 1
[KRASNAYA ZVEZDA 1 Mar]
KRASNAYA ZVEZDA Stresses Primacy of Combat Readiness V 2
[Editorial 26 Feb]
Charges of National Restrictions in Armed Forces Refuted V 4
[SOVETSKAYA BELORUSSIYA 21 Feb]

MAR 1 0 1978

I 1.52:86-8 PrEx7.10: FBIS-SOV-78-43

FBIS-SOV-78-43
Friday
3 March 1978
Vol III No 43

DAILY REPORT

COMPLETED
ORIGINAL

CONTRL

SOVIET UNION

Available for Distribution
From NTIS

FBIS FOREIGN BROADCAST INFORMATION SERVICE

This publication contains current news and commentary monitored by FBIS from foreign broadcasts, news agency transmissions, newspapers, and periodicals. Items are processed from the first or best available source; it should not be inferred that they have been disseminated only in the medium, in the language, or to the area indicated. Items from foreign-language sources are translated by FBIS. Those from English-language sources are transcribed, with the original phrasing and other characteristics retained.

Headlines, editorial reports, and material enclosed in brackets [ ] are supplied by FBIS. Labels such as [Text] or [Excerpts] in the first line of each item indicate how FBIS processed the information from the original. Names rendered phonetically or in transliteration are enclosed in parentheses. Words or names preceded by a question mark and enclosed in parentheses were not clearly heard but have been supplied as appropriate to the context. Other unattributed parenthetical notes within the body of an item originate with the source. Times within items are as given by the source.

Users of this publication may cite FBIS provided they do so in a manner clearly identifying it as the secondary source. For example: "FBIS reports that Radio Moscow announced . . ." or "FBIS has monitored a broadcast from Hanoi which says . . ."

This is a U.S. Government publication. Its contents in no way represent the policies, views, or attitudes of the U.S. Government.

SALT DELEGATIONS HOLD MEETING ON 2 MARCH

LD021238Y Moscow TASS in English 1225 GMT 2 Mar 78 LD

[Text] Geneva, March 2 TASS--The USSR and the USA delegations had a meeting here today at the Soviet-U.S. talks on limiting strategic offensive arms.

MILITARY INDUSTRY'S INFLUENCE COUNTERED BY PEACE FORCES

LD021011Y Moscow SELSKAYA ZHIZN in Russian 26 Feb 78 p 3 LD

[Article by observer Vadim Pavlov: "Eliminate the Threat of Nuclear War!"]

[Text] Before the atomic age natural forces were the biggest threat to mankind's existence: epidemics, earthquakes, floods and other natural disasters. Today the chief danger to all the people of the world is nuclear war. In order to avoid it it is necessary to halt the arms race. Therefore the primary task of all governments and peoples and all states, whatever political or social system they belong to, should be the desire to do everything in their power to halt the arms race and adopt effective measures on general disarmament.

Paramount significance in this respect is given to strategic arms limitation, and talks on this have been in progress for some time between the Soviet Union and the United States. Just when it would appear that the main obstacles have been cleared from the path toward achieving an agreement, new obstacles unexpectedly emerge, created artificially by those forces in the United States clearly averse to the positive development of Soviet-American relations.

Pursuing their narrow egotistical aims, these forces are distorting the foreign policy of the socialist countries and spreading deliberate fables about an alleged "Soviet threat" to the West.

At the beginning of January 1978 the New York TIMES reported that it had managed to obtain a copy of a report prepared by some American analysts. This 117-page study, based on CIA materials, provides an "all-embracing assessment of the military danger threatening the United States and the status of American Armed Forces in terms of their ability to repeal a threat" from the Soviet Union. The paper noted that U.S. Secretary of Defense Brown had sent the report as an integral part of a wider government study on the world correlation of forces between the great powers, a study known as "Presidential Review Memorandum-10." The New York TIMES stated that Carter used its conclusions as the basis for his directive demanding serious efforts to increase the combat capability of the American Armed Forces. The President's administration used some of the document's conclusions in order to justify the U.S. military budget for fiscal 1979.

The draft budget for fiscal 1979 submitted by the White House proposes an increase in military spending of almost 9.4 percent, or almost $6 billion more than in 1978. According to the estimate of the Communist Party of the United States' Economic Commission, if the tempo of the arms race is sustained, military appropriations in the United States will reach $146 billion in 1980 and $157 billion and $168 billion respectively in the 2 subsequent years. [paragraph continues]

This is happening despite the fact that the question of reducing states' military budgets has been brought up many times by our party's Central Committee, the USSR Supreme Soviet and the Soviet Government, in public statements by Soviet leaders and in confidential talks with figures from countries belonging to the other social system. The Soviet Union has submitted this proposal for discussion by all countries of the world. There has been wide support for this proposal just as there was wide support for the proposal on banning the production of new types of weapons of mass destruction. But, unfortunately, the military budgets of a number of Western countries, primarily the United States, are climbing at an ever increasing rate.

This occurs sometimes despite fine statements by responsible statesmen, whose actions and deeds depend to a decisive extent on the actual rulers--the military-industrial complex representing the alliance between the monopolies and the Pentagon elite. The military-industrial complex is headed by such giant corporations as General Electric, General Motors, IBM, Lockheed, Boeing, McDonnell-Douglas, Rockwell International, Bendix, Exxon and certain others. They all have their overlords, so to speak: the powerful financial groups--the Morgans, the Rockefellers, the Duponts, the Mellons; in the FRG--Messerschmitt-Boelkow-Blohm, Siemens, Telefunken.

Monopoly associations go to any lengths to get superprofits--this is the law of capitalism. The magnates who produce weapons ignore the people's desire to live in peace. On their instructions everything is done to distort and discredit the peace-loving foreign policy of the Soviet Union and the socialist countries and to deceive and intimidate the population of the United States and West European countries in order to make it easier to extract taxes from them for the arms race. A U.S. congressional subcommittee recently examined the situation in 131 military-industrial monopolies and established that 94 of them had profits of 50 percent; 49 had profits of more than 100 percent; 22 had more than 200 percent; and 3 had profits of more than 500 percent!

It is not surprising that big business has virtually unlimited opportunities of bribing congressmen and secretaries on whom the fate of military budgets depends to a considerable extent, and of maintaining an army of "indispensable people" whose functions include justifying the need for the arms race in the eyes of the world public.

While the hired propagandists carry out the will of their masters and diligently indoctrinate public opinion in the Western countries in an attempt to make the population believe that the neutron bomb is merely a defensive weapon, and its deployment on the European Continent is necessary for defense against an "attack" by the Warsaw Pact countries, the military monopolies' computer centers are counting the future profits from the new twist in the arms race.

It cannot be denied that today the military-industrial complex possesses a variety of powerful levers for influencing the formation of the international situation. But the forces advocating lasting peace on earth have immeasurable opportunities. Their ranks include millions of people of different political and religious beliefs living on all continents. Their ideas are shared by states which have embarked on the path of independent development. The progressive movements in capitalist countries are with them. The Soviet Union and the fraternal countries of socialism are using all their material and moral might on behalf of the achievement of this great aim.

Thanks to the detente achieve in a long hard struggle, an international situation has taken shape wherein, by dint of objective reasons, attention is now focused on questions of halting the arms race and moving on to actual disarmament. The prospects of the development of human civilization depend to a considerable extent on their solution. "We advocate the speediest completion of the talks on the principles of equal security. Following the signing of a new Strategic Arms Limitation Treaty it will be possible to move on to the next stage, this would be a genuine breakthrough on the path to military detente," L.I. Brezhnev stressed at the 24 February USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium session.

This is the only realistic way of preventing the unleashing of a general nuclear war and of maintaining and consolidating peace on earth.

NONGOVERNMENTAL DISARMAMENT MEETING ENDS IN GENEVA

LD021650Y Moscow TASS in English 1633 GMT 2 Mar 78 LD

[Text] Geneva, March 2, TASS--An international conference of nongovernmental organizations on disarmament, held at the Geneva Palace of Nations, has ended its work. At the final plenary meeting, its participants adopted a message for the coming special session of the U.N. General Assembly. They declare for urgent measures to be taken in order to put an end to the development, production and deployment of new types of nuclear weapons, such as the neutron bomb. The neutron bomb, the document runs, greatly increases the danger of any conflict growing into a nuclear conflagration and is a major factor of escalation of the arms race.

BULGARIAN PAPER CITED ON BELGRADE CSCE FINAL DOCUMENT

LD022120Y Moscow TASS in English 2041 GMT 2 Mar 78 LD

[Text] Sofia, March 2, TASS--The Belgrade meeting must approve a document, which would make a positive contribution to the relaxation process, to the strengthening of security and cooperation in Europe, the newspaper RABOTNICHESKO DELO writes today. The newspaper points out that a useful and broad exchange of views had taken place at the Belgrade meeting, many proposals were advanced to carry out the agreements reached in Helsinki. Its participants stressed the need of developing the process of relaxation, of making it more concrete. It now remains to make the last touch, namely, to adopt the final document, which would sum up the results of the work done. But the dragging out of the meeting is explained precisely by the divergence of views on the character, contents and volume of this document.

The stand of the socialist countries at the Belgrade meeting is principled and constructive, the organ of the Central Committee of the Bulgarian Communist Party notes. It reflects the desire, which they upheld at all the stages of the meeting--to make further progress, develop the Helsinki spirit of mutual understanding and cooperation. The Soviet draft of the final document constitutes an important political act, summing up the principal proposals, which can be approved by all the participants.

The tactic of certain NATO countries, primarily the United States, was to put to the fore throughout the meeting secondary questions, and to fan up a slanderous campaign against the socialist states, the newspaper writes. It found reflection in the official draft final document, which they have tabled, it reveals tendencies to revise the final act, adopted in Helsinki, to interfere in the internal affairs of the socialist states and, naturally, it could not receive universal approval. The work to draw up a final document of the Belgrade meeting must not and cannot be dragged out further, the newspaper stresses. The socialist states are exerting efforts to complete this work as quickly as possible. But they do not intend to countenance the attempts to revise the Helsinki final act and to meddle with their internal affairs.

CSCE DELEGATES PROGRESS TOWARD BRIEF FINAL DOCUMENT

LD021656Y Moscow TASS in English 1635 GMT 2 Mar 78 LD

[Text] Belgrade, March 2, TASS--The work of the Belgrade meeting of representatives of the states, parties to the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe, is drawing to completion. Along with plenary sessions, unofficial meetings and consultations are now being held every day. Their aim is to find mutually-acceptable wordings. As it has become known, there is now a distinct tendency towards progress in the work of editing of a brief final document. The stand of most of the delegations is that the forum in Belgrade should be crowned with positive results in the very immediate future.

Representatives of the Soviet Union and other socialist countries are exerting major efforts to have the Belgrade meeting completed in a constructive spirit.

TASS REPORTS CSCE FINAL DRAFT DOCUMENT SUBMITTED

LD022250Y Moscow TASS in English 2150 GMT 2 Mar 78 LD

[Text] Belgrade, March 2, TASS--The draft of a final document has been submitted at today's plenary session of the Belgrade meeting of representatives of the states, parties to the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe. It was drafted in the course of consultations between representatives of socialist, neutral and Western delegations. As it has become known, the draft expresses the determination of the governments of all participating countries to continue implementing unilaterally, bilaterally and multilaterally all provisions of the final act of the all-European conference. The next Belgrade-type meeting is planned to be held in Madrid. It is to open on November 11, 1980. The draft plans meetings of experts to consider and elaborate a generally-acceptable method of a peace settlement of disputes between states, preparation of a European "scientific forum" and the study of possibilities and means of promoting concrete initiatives for mutually-beneficial cooperation in the Mediterranean area in the economic, scientific and cultural spheres. The provisions of the draft final document are aimed at furthering the process of detente and expanding cooperation that was started by the heads of state and government in Helsinki in 1975. In their speeches at today's session most of the representatives expressed the hope that this proposal will promote a positive completion of the Belgrade meeting in the near future.

WEST BUILDUP OF EUROPEAN TROOPS OBSTRUCTS VIENNA TALKS

LD022316Y Moscow TASS in English 2236 GMT 2 Mar 78 LD

[Text] Vienna, March 2, TASS--TASS correspondent Igor Maslov reports: Today, the 162nd plenary session of the talks on mutual reduction of troops and armaments in central Europe was held behind closed doors at the Hofburg Palace in Vienna. The head of the Belgium delegation, Ambassador L. Smolderen, addressed the session. In his speech, a Western representative told journalists, the ambassador explained the NATO concept of the so-called "collective ceilings". This unrealistic concept hinders the Vienna dialogue. A representative of the Czechoslovak delegation for the press told TASS that the socialist countries are alerted by the fact that Western participants are trying even at this stage to preserve for certain West European states the possibility of increasing their armed forces. It is for this end, as it was demonstrated today by L. Smolderen, that the idea of collective ceilings was put forward, which practically speaking allows major NATO military powers to increase their troops at the expense of their allies after the second stage of reductions. The proposals which Western powers are trying to force in Vienna on the socialist countries are absolutely unacceptable. If they were accepted, the socialist countries would have to reduce their troops by almost three times more than the NATO countries. As a result, Western powers would get a military advantage of approximately 150,000 troops. To counter these proposals the socialist countries are suggesting proportional reduction. This suggestion is just and realistic and will result in almost equal number of troops of NATO and the Warsaw countries in the area of reductions.

At the end of the talk, the Czechoslovak representative said that holding the Vienna talks on the reduction of armed forces, Western participants are at the same time building up their troops in central Europe. Thus, according to the Western press, in 1977 alone, the USA increased its armed forces in the area by 16,000 and is now carrying out a new increase of 8,000. This in no way serves the noble aim of the Vienna talks--to reduce the military confrontation in central Europe.

BELGRADE, MIDDLE EAST, JAPAN SITUATIONS REVIEWED

LD021147Y Moscow TRUD in Russian 28 Feb 78 p 1 LD

[S. Modenov untitled international review]

[Excerpt] The Soviet delegation in Belgrade is currently making constructive efforts to successfully conclude the meeting of the countries which participated in the all-European conference. The meeting in the Yugoslav capital is not going smoothly. Even at the concluding stage the delegations from the United States and some of its allies in the NATO bloc are making attempts to divert it from the main path defined by the final act signed in Helsinki. This is indicated, in particular, by the draft final document of the meeting which they proposed last week. The draft contains provisions which are aimed at revising the final act and which represent direct interference in the internal affairs of sovereign--above all socialist--states. It is quite understandable that this document was rejected by the Belgrade meeting participants.

The Soviet Union invariably seeks to strengthen the peoples' friendship and cooperation and to liquidate the world's trouble spots. The Soviet-Libyan and Soviet-Syrian talks held in Moscow may serve as convincing confirmation of these efforts. They gave impetus to the development of friendly relations and to the strengthening of the USSR's fruitful ties with Libya and Syria. During the talks the sides declared once again that genuine peace can be achieved in the Near East only if all occupied Arab territories are liberated and the legitimate national rights of the Palestinian people are insured, including their right to self-determination and the creation of a national state. Our party and our people were, are and will be true to the cause of peace.

Dictated by Interests of Neighborliness

The process of easing tension and broadening cooperation among states must embrace all regions of the globe, including Asia. Definite preconditions exist here today for erecting firm foundations of peace.

The Soviet Union invariably advocates the further development and deepening of relations with our neighbor Japan. Soviet-Japanese relations have a very solid base, but the level of cooperation that has been reached is not the limit. As is known, talks were held in Moscow in January between A.A. Gromyko, member of the CPSU Central Committee Politburo and USSR foreign minister, and S. Sonoda, Japanese foreign minister. The Soviet side confirmed the proposal to conclude a treaty on neighborliness and cooperation between the two countries. This proposal, L.I. Brezhnev pointed out in an interview in the Japanese newspaper ASAHI in June 1977, has been made with the acknowledgement that Japan is not yet prepared to conclude a peace treaty. It is dictated by the desire to establish superb relations between our countries. The conclusion of this treaty, whose draft has just been published in the Soviet press, would undoubtedly give a new boost to Soviet-Japanese relations and help to deepen mutual trust. The treaty proposed by the USSR would in no way harm the relations of the Soviet Union and Japan with third countries or infringe on the interests of other states.

While sincerely seeking to strengthen relations with our Far Eastern neighbor, the Soviet people at the same time cannot fail to see that forces which seek to push Japan onto a dangerous course are recently growing more active on the Japanese islands. They are led by the generals and arms manufacturers who are campaigning for the country's accelerated remilitarization. Washington is also striving for the same end.

Contrary to the constitutionally proclaimed principle of renouncing war for all time, as well as the threat or use of armed force as a means of resolving international disputes, the military potential is constantly being increased in Japan. Japan's military expenditure is growing at the fastest pace in the world. It is also planned to maintain this pace in the future. Thus, in fiscal 1979, it is planned to increase spending by 25 percent immediately. The Japanese Army has the most modern combat equipment in its arsenal including tactical missiles, and a few days ago a call was heard from the platform of the country's parliament for the Self Defense Forces to be equipped with nuclear weapons.

Militarist trends are causing serious concern among Japan's democratic public. They have nothing to do with the country's national interests and can only seriously complicate the international situation in the Far East.

OPEC EXPRESSES CONCERN OVER FALL OF DOLLAR, U.S. POLICY

LD021756Y Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1238 GMT 2 Mar 78 LD

[Text] Moscow--TASS economic observer Sergey Stoklitskiy writes:

At the very moment when the value of the American dollar has crossed the "danger" mark, and when less than 2 West German marks equal it on the Frankfurt am Main monetary exchange for the first time, a statement made by Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmed as-Sabah, amir of Kuwait, has been made public. The amir of Kuwait has called for an extraordinary meeting of the oil ministers of the OPEC states if the fall in the value of the dollar is not halted. Is this a coincidence between two events? Even if a coincidence, it is far from being coincidental. Moreover, it is quite natural.

The important fact is that the dollar serves as a base currency in accounting for oil on the world markets. Because of the continuous fall in the dollar's value, the monetary gain by the OPEC countries is constantly eroded. For this reason, Kuwaiti export income has been reduced by almost one-fifth. Kuwait is not alone in its concern over the dollar's decline. In the past few days, the necessity of reexamining the practice of establishing the price of oil in dollars was pointed out by the finance minister of Iran. Earlier, the United Arab Emirates, Bahrain and Qatar have come out in favor of calculating the base price of oil in units of the International Monetary Fund with special drawing rights.

The attempts by the Persion Gulf states to raise their voices against the diktat of the dollar have been met in Washington with growing anxiety. For Washington, the elimination of the dollar's privileges means in effect an increase in the cost of imported oil. This is equivalent to a sharp increase in the balance of payments deficit. In such a situation, in order to preserve "oil profits", Washington is resorting to any means--to the stick and the carrot. The recent statement by U.S. Defense Secretary Harold Brown concerning the United States intention to deploy its armed forces in the Persian Gulf region is assessed by many observers as a direct demonstration of American policy operating from a "position of strength". Following this show of the stick, the carrot was produced--the recent decision by the White House to satisfy the ambitions of the Saudi leaders and to sell them the latest "F-15" fighters. In strengthening its alliance with the more reactionary forces in the region and nurturing its aggressive plans, Washington is trying by any means to keep the peoples of the liberated countries from determining the fate of their natural resources on their own.

UNITED STATES

BRZEZINSKI'S POSITION ON SOMALIA, SALT CONTRADICTORY

LD022008Y Moscow TASS in English 1957 GMT 2 Mar 78 LD

[Text] Washington, March 2, TASS-Zbigniew Brzezinski, assistant to the U.S. President for national security, had a White House meeting with a group of journalists, at which he appraised prospects for the conclusion of the Strategic Arms Limitation Talks. He stated that the President firmly hopes for the conclusion of an agreement this year and that he said so in his State of the Union Message.

Z. Brzezinski said that there exist several outstanding problems in the drafting of an agreement. He explained the slow progress of the talks by the complexity of the problems discussed. On the other hand, without any gpounds whatsoever, he tried to present the matter as if some steps were required for the success of the talks and that these should be taken--by the Soviet Union alone.

Although the meeting was devoted entirely to the SALT problem, Z. Brzezinski touched on the situation in the Horn of Africa and the Soviet Union's legitimate assistance to Ethiopia, the victim of aggression by Somalia. There was some contradiction in Z. Brzezinski statement in this respect. He asserted that the United States did not link in any way the Strategic Arms Limitation Talks with the situation in the Horn of Africa and the Soviet Union's assistance to Ethiopia. On the other hand, he said that the linking of the two things may be made inevitable by inadmissible attempts to use the local conflict for broader international aims.

As is known, the Soviet Union has stated more than once that it is giving Ethiopia assistance in repelling aggression by Somalia which is supported by reactionary regimes. As a result of this aggression a part of Ethiopian territory has been occupied. The Soviet Union comes out for a peaceful settlement of the conflict, for terminating military actions on the condition that the aggressor troops are withdrawn from Ethiopian territory. It is now necessary to make practical steps that would help stop the escalation of the conflict.

Any other interpretation of the Soviet Union's position in respect of the events in the Horn of Africa are a deliberate distortion.

Provocative, Misleading Statement

LD030130Y Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 2130 GMT 2 Mar 78 LD

[Text] Our correspondent Yuriy Soltan reports from Washington: Events in the Horn of Africa, where Ethiopia, with the support of the socialist and other peace-loving countries, is fending off aggression from Somalia, has become the subject of provocative speculation in the United States.

Attempts are made here to present the disinterested Soviet aid for the victim of aggression as interference by the Soviet Union in the internal affairs of African countries, while the facts indicate that incitement by the United States and her Western allies and their promises to render military aid had a large hand in Somalia's aggression against Ethiopia. And such aid is being rendered.

At the beginning of February in Washington a meeting was held of representatives of the United States, Britain, France, Italy and the FRG to discuss the question of coordinating efforts to support the Somali aggression. With Washington's blessing American arms are reaching Somalia via third countries, and financial aid is being rendered for military purposes. Last week a squadron of American warships with nuclear missiles on board was sent to the Indian Ocean as a show of strength.

But what is made of these facts by those who try to use any excuse to complicate Soviet-American relations and hinder the successful conclusion of the talks on limiting strategic offensive arms? These forces are exerting ever-increasing pressure on the Washington administration. Even though official assurances have long since been received in Washington from the Government of Ethiopia that her troops will not violate the Somali border but will merely clear Ethiopian territory of invaders, the administration is beginning to [few words indistinct], Zbigniew Brezinski, the President's national security adviser, has made another statement stressing that the "unjustified Soviet interference in the conflict between Somalia and Ethiopia"--those were his words--is obstructing Soviet-American disarmament talks and will hinder the ratification of the agreement, if it is signed, in the U.S. Congress. This is a provocative and misleading statement not dictated at all by concern about the restoration of peace in the Horn of Africa and, as local journalistic circles note, is intended to justify the negative position taken up by the American side on a number of important issues at the Soviet-American talks on limitation of strategic offensive arms.

Statements of this kind from a highly-placed figure in the Washington administration run counter to the oft-repeated assertion of the White House about a desire to bring the talks to a successful conclusion and not make the solution of the important problem of disarmament dependent on other issues.

ATHERTON'S MIDEAST SETTLEMENT EFFORTS 'FUTILE'

LD0222000Y Moscow in Arabic to the Arab World 1900 GMT 2 Mar 78 LD

[Text] Special Beirut correspondent, Rassadin, writes: It is clear from the Middle East shuttle trips of Alfred Atherton, U.S. assistant secretary of state, that his efforts toward a Middle East settlement are futile. The Lebanese weekly AL-HAWADITH points out that this has been clear since the beginning of the Egyptian-Israeli separate talks, when Washington had stressed that it did not intend to pressure Israel. Analyzing the recent developments in the Middle East, the Beirut ASH-SHA'B writes that Tel Aviv is now asserting, with more insolence, its claims to Arab territories. It is worthwhile mentioning that Egyptian President Anwar as-Sadat is greatly encouraging Israel in this. The Damascus AL-BA'TH has pointed out that the present position demands further cohesion from the Arabs to torpedo the dangerous plans of Cairo, Tel Aviv and Washington.

IMPARTIALITY OF RECENT U.S. DECISIONS ON MIDEAST DENIED

LD0210015Y Moscow NOVOYE VREMYA in Russian No 9, 24 Feb 78 pp 8-9 LD

[Correspondent Yu. Gudkov dispatch: "Doubledealing"]

[Text] New York, February--The U.S. administration announced 13 February its decision to supply consignments of warplanes to three Near East countries--Israel, Saudi Arabia and Egypt--over the course of several years. [paragraph continues]

This action by Washington, which must still be approved by Congress, is being represented as an example of an "impartial approach" toward the sides participating in the Near East conflict. Many commentators subscribe to a different opinion. They point out that the U.S. plans to give Israel--in addition to all the previous deliveries--90 aircraft of the latest types (F-15, F-16) while Egypt will get 50 aircraft of an older model (F-5), and they believe that the White House decision on supplying aircraft to Egypt was occasioned not by an "impartial approach" but by the fact that Washington deemed it necessary to "sugar the pill" for President as-Sadat. For, in the unanimous opinion of the leading American press organs, As-Sadat's U.S. visit at the beginning of February failed to yield any positive results for Cairo. He did not succeed in securing Washington's support for his position at the separate talks with Israel, although he was counting on this.

As-Sadat's meeting with senators and congressmen also essentially recalled a dialog of the deaf. In this connection, citing "knowledgeable sources," a CHRISTIAN SCIENCE MONITOR correspondent noted that "Congress' attitude has not reached the point where sympathy for As-Sadat can develop into open support for his desire to obtain greater U.S. pressure on Israel.... This year, with elections scheduled, congressmen are aware that they will lose a great deal as a result of the influential Jewish community's reaction if they adopt a position critical of Israel."

In short, the Egyptian president's Washington visit graphically demonstrated that, after adopting the policy line of a separate deal with Israel, As-Sadat has come up against Tel Aviv's ultimatum position and has failed to find support in Washington. The Egyptian-Israeli talks, which are strenuously advertised as the "path to peace in the Near East", by no means prevent Israel's ruling circles from pursuing the policy of the accelerated "assimilation" of the occupied lands.

It is characteristic that this "second occupation" is taking place despite protests from both Cairo and Washington. In response to these protests Israel is threatening to abandon the talks altogether.

It looks as though the preservation of the Near East status quo is indeed entirely to the liking of the Israeli expansionists but cannot suit the United States. No proof is needed of the fact that it is the paramount task of U.S. policy in the Near East to safeguard Israel's interests. However, the United States' ever-growing dependence on Near East oil supplies is forcing Washington to seek a rapprochement with the Arab states. Shaykh Yamani, Saudi Arabian oil minister, warned recently: The increase of liquid fuel deliveries to the United States will depend on the establishment of "just and lasting peace" in the Near East. And when Washington talks of an "all-embracing settlement" which assumes definite concessions from Israel, it is thinking primarily of its own aims. According to Washington's calculations, this all-embracing agreement must, as America's NATION magazine writes: "Not only prevent access by the Soviet Union to a region where it has enjoyed influence for more than 20 years but also open up the Near East as a whole for American capital and guarantee U.S. oil supplies by strengthening the conservative oil states at the expense of Arab nationalist and leftwing forces." Meanwhile Israel wants to see itself as the only "privileged partner" of the United States in the Near East region.

The zigzags characteristic of the Carter administration's Near East policy are largely explained by the clash between such contradictory interests.

During his election campaign Carter paid attention to Near East affairs only insofar as this was related to the Jewish vote. With its aid he hoped to win in major states such as New York, California and Illinois. And so his statements at that time rarely diverged from Israel's official line, prominent American commentator Stanley Karnow testifies.

But the picture looked considerably more complex from the White House. After many conversations with representatives of the present American administration, Karnow characterizes it in the following way: "On the whole the Arabs are inclined to resume the Geneva forum primarily for the sake of preventing any Arab state from concluding a separate deal with Israel. But the Israelis have preferred Kissinger's method of partial steps in the expectation of separate deals with the Arabs like the Sinai agreement with Egypt." So long as the Arab front remained united, the Carter administration could see no opportunity to pursue an overtly pro-Israeli policy. Hence Washington's official representation to Israel regarding the drilling of oil wells on occupied Egyptian territory, the veto on the plan to sell Ecuador Israeli fighter-bombers equipped with American engines and the revision of a former promise to supply Israel with the latest type of aerial bombs. Then President Carter stated the Palestinians' right to a "homeland" and agreed, albeit with some reservations, to participation by the Palestine Liberation Organization in the Geneva conference. The biggest step on this path was the publication of the 1 October Soviet-American joint statement on the Near East.

The response to all these actions by the U.S. administration was a mighty propaganda campaign organized by both Israel itself and the Zionist lobby inside the United States. The U.S. "big press," which Senator Abourezk has called "Israel's propaganda machine," was mobilized and massive manipulation of congressmen began. The leaders of 32 American Zionist organizations accused the administration of "abandoning America's historical commitments."

The importance of the Israeli lobby in U.S. political life is exceptionally great. And it is not just that Jews, who constitute 3 percent of the American population, are regarded as politically one of the most active ethnic groups in the country. Still more importantly, Zionist organizations finance the election campaigns of the rival parties. According to CHRISTIAN SCIENCE MONITOR calculations, they provide more than 50 percent of Democratic Party campaign funds and 40 percent of Republic Party campaign funds. Characterizing the relations between the United States and Israel, NATION called them the "product of two interwoven factors: On the one hand, the almost unimaginable extent of Israel's dependence on U.S. military, economic and diplomatic assistance and, on the other, the equally considerable support given to Israel by both the U.S. Congress and American public opinion," which, let us add for our part, is skillfully maniuplated by the selfsame "big press."

Yielding to concerted pressure, the White House, despite its verbal objections to the creation of new Israeli settlements, invariably strikes a balance in favor of Tel Aviv in its Near East "doubledealing." This is also demonstrated--despite Tel Aviv's pharisaical resentment--by the decision to sell warplanes worth a total of $4.8 billion to the three Near East countries. Thus a new spiral of the arms race is being fashioned in this already explosive area. And it is also ultimately the interests of the Israeli expansionists which are served by the attempts to substitute a separate deal with Egypt for the Geneva conference.

Everything indicates that Egypt is involved in a game in which it can only be the loser. This is clearly demonstrated by both the "tough position" adopted by Israel in the talks and the obvious fruitlessness of As-Sadat's attempts to find patrons in Washington.

U.S. ENVOY FACES LONG, COMPLEX TALKS IN ANKARA

LD021019Y Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 25 Feb 78 Morning Edition p 4 LD

[Report by A. Akhmedzyanov: "An Attempt To Mend the Breach"]

[Text] Ankara--An American delegation headed by M. Nimetz, a high-ranking representative of the U.S. State Department, has arrived in Ankara to hold talks "at a technical level" on Turkish-American relations. In other words, Washington is attempting to "patch the holes" in relations with the country which represents NATO's eastern flank.

Turkey's relations with the United Staes, Turkish papers note, were complicated by an embargo imposed on the delivery of American weapons to Turkey. The Turkish Government retaliated by closing more than two dozen American military bases and tracking stations mainly engaged in gathering information on the Soviet Union, the paper CUMHURIYET notes.

The previous American administration's attempts to settle relations with Turkey included a joint defense treaty which was imposed on Turkey and which has not yet been ratified by the U.S. Congress.

Turkish observers believe that in all probability Nimetz' talks in Ankara will be long and complex because the formation of the new Turkish Government, headed by B. Ecevit, has meant considerable changes in the country's foreign policy and on questions of defense--they have become more independent. At any rate, commentators write, there will be no going back to the old Turkish-American relations.

DANISH LEADER'S STATEMENTS ENCOURAGE NEUTRON DEPLOYMENT

LD021840Y Moscowin Finnish to Finland 1630 GMT 1 Mar 78 LD

[Text] The world press is paying much attention to the U.S. visit by Danish Prime Minister Anker Joergensen and his meeting with President Carter and other members of the U.S. Cabinet. Our observer Boris Navitskiy writes on the matter:

According to press reports, one of the chief topics in Joergensen's talks with Carter and U.S. Defense Secretary Brown was the issue of the production of neutron bombs and their deployment in Europe. The U.S. attitude in this matter is sufficiently known. It claims that the neutron bomb is extremely necessary for Europe as a weapon of intimidation, and that it has been developed almost at the request of the Europeans themselves. For that reason, before serial production of the bomb starts, the United States is asking that its allies express approval of the deployment of neutron arms in Europe, above all in West Germany. But the European leaders cannot just ignore public opinion, which justifiably sees the neutron bomb as a dangerous thing igniting nuclear war. The United States is clearly concerned over the growing opposition to its plans, and for that reason it began to speed up events to gain a positive reply from its allies before the NATO summit in May.

One may easily guess that the Danish prime minister was also put under pressure in a certain way. What are the results? As INFORMATION reports, Joergensen said in the United States that he thinks the neutron bomb is not a new weapon which would differ from the U.S. nuclear warheads deployed in Western Europe. As a matter of fact, Joergensen failed to consider the factor that the neutron bomb, as a new weapon in principle, may lead to a qualitatively new stage in the arms race and lower the level of nuclear obstacles--in other words, bring Europe closer to the brink of a nuclear catastrophe.

Naturally, comparing the neutron bomb with a conventional nuclear weapon, Joergensen confirms Denmark's refusal to deploy neutron arms on its territory in peace time, but the (?question has not been put that way). According to NATO plans, the neutron bombs must be deployed in West Germany, not Denmark, but Joergensen's statement does not give it the green light. If West Germany is storing U.S. nuclear warheads, then why could one not add to them neutron arms, as they do not in any way differ from them? In other words, we will allow the United States to deploy the neutron bombs in the NATO arsenals, INFORMATION writes.

One can assume that such an attitude will fully satisfy those circles in the Federal Republic of Germany that would like to receive the neutron arms, but do not want to take sole responsibility for them. Thus, the statement given by the Danish leader in the United States, whatever its source, is grist to the mill of those who want to bring about the speeding up of the development of a new cruel weapon of mass extermination for Europe.

U.S. TROOP BUILDUP IN PANAMA VIEWED WITH ALARM

LD011051Y Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 27 Feb 78 p 3 LD

[Gennadiy Zafesov commentary: "The 'Big Stick' Again?"]

[Text] Approximately 1,000 U.S. paratroopers have been transferred abruptly to the Panama Canal Zone. They have received special training in suppressing popular demonstrations.

This U.S. action has caused alarm and concern both in Panama and throughout the Latin American region. It is appropriate to recall that the United States has some 15 military bases in the Canal Zone and several thousand servicemen. Why, then, are reinforcements needed?

Some commentators believe that the United States wishes to use these units to support the shaky throne of General Somoza, dictator of Nicaragua. This possibility cannot be excluded: In the past the Canal Zone has repeatedly served as a staging post for "Green Berets" being sent to Latin American countries. They are well remembered in Guatemala and the Dominican Republic.

The conviction prevails in the Panama press, however, that the buildup of U.S. armed forces in the Canal Zone is an attempt to put psychological pressure on the Panamanian Government and to carry out "preventive intimidation" of the country's progressive forces which are struggling for genuine national sovereignty, including over the Canal issue.

It is significant that these actions have been undertaken simultaneously with a sharp activation of U.S. reactionary circles opposed to the U.S. Senate's ratification of the new treaties on the Panama Canal, which provide for the establishment of Panamanian sovereignty over the Canal Zone by the year 2000. Senator J. Allen, in particular, has demanded a change to the treaties signed by U.S. President Carter and O. Torrijos, head of the Panama Government, so that the U.S. military bases in the Panama Canal Zone remain even after the year 2000. In other words, to preserve the status quo.

The Panamanian people have already expressed their will in a national plebiscite, in which almost the entire adult population of the country participated, approving the above-named documents by an overwhelming majority. The attempts by U.S. reactionary circles to wreck the ratification in the U.S. Senate and to bring the moss-grown "big stick" once again out of their arsenal have aroused anger and indignation in Panama. The national assembly of people's representatives has sent the U.S. Senate a resolute protest. Panama's just stand is receiving the increasingly broad support of the world's progressive public.

HAIG SPEECH ON MILITARY BUDGET WARNS OF SOVIET MENACE

LD022148Y Moscow TASS in English 2106 GMT 2 Mar 78 LD

[Text] Moscow, March 2, TASS--TASS political commentator Igor Orlov writes:

At the height of the current struggle between the supporters and opponents of intensification of the arms race, when the fate of the U.S. biggest ever military budget is being decided, Washington decided to bring heavy artillery into play. Alexander Haig, the supreme commander of the NATO forces in Europe, was summoned to the capital in order to address the senators. In his speech Haig advertized the new American military budget as a "NATO budget". He called for further strengthening the North Atlantic military bloc which is viewed by the Pentagon as an instrument of foreign policy in the interests of American monopolies.

To justify the United States' enormous arms spending, Haig used the standard invention about the non-existent "Soviet menace". He sees such a "menace" in everything, even in the impressive economic achievements of the Soviet Union.

Haig's demands for further stepping up the arms race were acclaimed in the circles of the military-industrial complex of the USA. And this is no wonder. The figures published recently by a Senate commission which investigated the activities of 169 military-industrial corporations show that 164 companies made profits ranging from 50 to 200 percent, three companies made profits amounting to over 500 percent and one, over 2,000 percent.

Such fantastic earnings evidently take away the wits of those who seek a further dangerous build-up of the country's military potential to the detriment of real national interests and who do not wish to heed the persistent appeals of the Soviet Union and other peace-loving states to begin to force down the arms race curve.

'FORWARD BASES' STRATEGY REFLECTS U.S. EXPANSIONISM

LD021143Y Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 28 Feb 78 Morning Edition p 5 LD

[Article by V. Mkrtchyan: "Instrument of Interference"]

[Text] The numerous U.S. military bases created on other countries' territories are one of the most serious obstacles to deepening detente, ending the arms race and moving to the serious solution of the problem of disarmament. Scattered about the world, located at tremendous distances from the United States, they are intended for use against the Soviet Union and the other socialist community countries and against states and peoples struggling for their freedom and national independence.

Until recently the Pentagon had around 2,000 military bases and strong points. At least 30 countries were "favored" with the attention of the American military. According to U.S. NEWS AND WORLD REPORT, in 1977 the complement of American troops at these bases was increased by 27,000 men and reached 490,000. The policy of building up U.S. forces abroad, the journal writes, will continue this year.

All these Pentagon bases are the material embodiment of the concept of "forward basing." The ramified network--missile bases, air, naval, ground troops and general bases--was created by the Pentagon under cover of the propaganda ballyhoo over the so-called "Soviet threat." Washington strategists have repeatedly stated that "forward basing facilities," that is, American military bases, are necessary for U.S. "national security" and they were created in connection with the "Soviet threat" and "are contributing" to the maintenance of peace.

It would be hard to think of a clumsier justification since the whole world is well aware that the Soviet Union threatens no one. As the CPSU Central Committee, USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium and USSR Council of Ministers greeting to the troops of the Soviet Armed Forces on the occasion of the 60th anniversary of the Soviet Army and Navy stresses, "all that Soviet people are doing in the military sphere is being done to safeguard themselves and their socialist friends against attack and to prevent aggression."

According to the magazine MILITARY REVIEW, the American military bases are the cornerstone of the strategic mobility of the American Armed Forces. This means that the concept of "forward basing" is essentially an integral part of the so-called "realistic deterrent" strategy, which aspires to the role of first violin in U.S. modern military doctrine.

The concept of "forward basing" serves as an instrument of Pentagon influence on countries most remote from the United States and of interference in their internal affairs. Like a mirror, it reflects American imperialism's attempt to continue its expansionist course on a global scale.

PEKING'S CALL TO CHINESE ABROAD THREATENS ASIAN SECURITY

LD171115Y Moscow TASS in English 1107 GMT 17 Feb 78 LD

[Text] Singapore, February 17, TASS--Public in the countries of Southeast Asia is profoundly concerned over Peking's striving to place Huatsiao, Chinese emigrants resident in the states of that region, at the service of hegemonic aims. As the Singapore newspaper STRAITS TIMES stresses, the Peking leaders persistently call to the "patriotic sentiments" of the Chinese residents abroad, seeing in them an "important force which must be used." According to the designs of the Maoists, not only "ethnically pure" emigrants, but even distant descendants of the Chinese, who have long left their homeland, must become active accomplices of Peking in implementing its great power ambitions in Southeast Asia.

The Maoists operating in the countries with a considerably large Chinese minority are zealously advocating the thesis of the "cultural, national and historical kinship" of all the Chinese. Huatsiao are instilled the idea of "supremacy" over other peoples, they are instigated in every way possible "to give aid and assistance to the motherland", i.e., China.

Thus, in particular, the Chinese resident abroad and working in the field of military research are ever more often invited to the PRC, where they share their know-how with the persons and institutions concerned.

At the special meeting on the affairs of Huatsiao, which was held early this year in Peking, emphasis was laid on finding out possibilities to use the private funds of wealthy emigrants. According to available data, their capital in the countries of Southeast Asia alone is at least 15,000 million dollars. Seeking an increase in the inflow of funds into the PRC from foreign Chinese businessmen, the Maoists plan to invest their money into the development of predominantly the branches of economy, which are connected with military production.

That is precisely why the rich emigrant circles, which only a short time ago were termed in Peking as "servitors of imperialism and reaction", are now described quite differently by the Maoists. The newspaper JEN-MIN JIH-PAO [PEOPLE'S DAILY] writes, for example, that the "overwhelming majority of the Chinese bourgeoisie abroad holds a 'friendly and patriotic stand', and therefore it is necessary to work for rallying with it. At the same time, Peking agents are baiting and victimizing in the countries of Southeast Asia persons of Chinese nationality refusing to collaborate with the Maoists. [quote marks as received]

Peking advises Chinese emigrants to seize key positions in the political and administrative machinery of the countries, where they are resident. By stepping up the subversive activity of their secret services for organizing a "fifth column" in independent states, where millions of Chinese are resident, the present Peking leadership creates a grave threat to the independence of these countries, to peace and security in Asia.

MEETING OF SOCIALIST COUNTRIES' PARTIES SUMMED UP

LD0214S4Y Moscow in English to South and Southeast Asia 1100 GMT 2 Mar 78 LD

[Commentary by Radio Moscow observer Yuriy Yakovlev]

[Text] A conference of the communist and workers' parties of nine socialist countries has ended in the Hungarian capital Budapest. Taking part were the secretaries of the Central Committees for international and ideological problems of Bulgaria, Cuba, Czechoslovakia, the German Democratic Republic, Hungary, Mongolia, Poland, Romania and the Soviet Union. The Vietnamese Communist Party was represented by an observer.

That was by no means the first conference of the kind, notes Radio Moscow observer Yuriy Yakovlev. They are an integral part of the comradely cooperation between the Communist Parties of the socialist countries. This cooperation embraces such fields as propaganda, the social sciences and culture. It goes without saying that the concrete conditions in which the individual parties work are taken into account, since each of them enjoys full independence. At the same time their cooperation helps solve the problems of common interest, to popularize the achievements of the socialist countries and their domestic and foreign policies. This was stressed by the Budapest meeting.

The participants were all in favor of continuing this fruitful practice especially in the present conditions when the imperialist and reactionary circles are doing their utmost to distort the situation in the socialist countries and to depict their cooperation and policies in a false light. In these circumstances, as the conference stated, it is particularly important to provide objective information on the activities of the Communist Parties and on life in the socialist countries.

It was reaffirmed at the conference again that the common cause of the socialist countries is aimed at consolidating peace. It was formulated in the foreign policy program of the 25th Congress of the Soviet Communist Party as well as in the party documents of the other countries of the socialist community. We are constantly putting forward initiatives to reduce world tension. These initiatives have already given many useful results. One of them especially important was the all-European conference in Helsinki. The final act of the conference is justly regarded as a charter of peaceful coexistence and cooperation of states with different social systems. The main point now, is to consistently realize the entire complex of the principles and understanding in the final act of the Helsinki Conference. This is a reliable way to promote relaxation of tensions in Europe and throughout the world. The countries of the socialist community are acting along these lines; they have declared this again at the Budapest meeting.

Political relaxation is unthinkable without military relaxation. A forced arms race, the development of new weapons of mass destruction, including the neutron bomb, are a great obstacle in the way of further normalization of international relations. Can the edifice of peace be strong when there is a mine of a tremendous explosive force under its foundations? Of course not. The Soviet Union and other countries in the socialist community propose to remove this mine. We proposed to the West mutual renunciation of the production of neutron weapons. We have made more than a hundred proposals to stop the arms race, to launch disarmament, first of all nuclear disarmament. The socialist countries stand for decisive measures in this field. The common position of these countries has been reaffirmed at the conference in Budapest.

PONOMAREV, ZIMYANIN RETURN HOME FROM CONFERENCE

LD022314Y Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 2100 GMT 2 Mar 78 LD

[Text] Ponomarev, candidate member of the Politburo and secretary of the CPSU Central Committee and Zimyanin, secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, returned to Moscow from Budapest today. They had taken part in the conference of secretaries of Central Committees of fraternal parties of socialist countries.

MAZUROV, DOLGIKH AT BULGARIAN ENVOY'S MOSCOW RECEPTION

LD022332Y Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 2050 GMT 2 Mar 78 LD

[Text] Zhulev, ambassador to the Soviet Union of the People's Republic of Bulgaria, today held a reception on the occasion of the 100th anniversary of the liberation of Bulgaria from the Ottoman yoke. Present at the reception were comrades Mazurov, Dolgikh, other officials, activists from the Soviet-Bulgarian Friendship Society and cultural and scientific figures.

KUZNETSOV HEADS DELEGATION AT SOFIA MEETING

LD022000Y Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1600 GMT 2 Mar 78 LD

[Text] In Sofia today a festive session was held devoted to the 100th anniversary of the liberation of Bulgaria from the Ottoman yoke. Together with the leaders of the Communist Party and Government of Bulgaria, in the Presidium of the session was a delegation of the USSR headed by Kuznetsov, candidate member of the CPSU Central Committee Politburo and first deputy chairman of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium. Zhivkov, first secretary of the Bulgarian Communist Party Central Committee and chairman of the State Council of the Republic, gave a report at the session.

Kuznetsov Addresses Meeting

For a BTA report on a speech by Vasiliy Kuznetsov, CPSU Central Committee Politburo candidate member and first deputy chairman of the Supreme Soviet Presidium, delivered on 2 March in Sofia at a special meeting of Bulgarian government and party organs to commemorate Bulgaria's liberation from Turkish domination, see the Bulgaria section of the 3 March Eastern Europe DAILY REPORT.

GIEREK RECEIVES LCY'S DOLANC IN WARSAW; HOLDS TALKS

LD012228Y Moscow TASS in English 2209 GMT 1 Mar 78 LD

[Text] Warsaw, March 2, TASS--The First Secretary of the Central Committee of the Polish United Workers' Party Edward Gierek received the Secretary of the Executive Committee of the Presidium of the Central Committee of the Communist League of Yugoslavia Stane Dolanc, who is in Poland at the invitation of the PUWP CC. They exchanged views on important problems of the international situation and stressed the desire of the two parties and countries to make a constructive contribution to strengthening the detente process, international cooperation and trust.

During the talk they positively assessed Polish-Yugoslav relations, successfully developing in every field, particularly in economic, scientific and technical cooperation. They expressed the desire of the two parties to go on expanding these relations in the interests of the Polish and Yugoslav peoples.

KUZNETSOV, POLAND'S OLSZEWSKI AT CREDENTIALS CEREMONY

LD021131Y Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 28 Feb 78 p 4 LD

[Text] TASS--On 27 February in the Kremlin, Kazimierz Olszewski, extraordinary and plenipotentiary ambassador of the Polish People's Republic, presented his credentials to V.V. Kuznetsov, candidate member of the CPSU Central Committee Politburo and first deputy chairman of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium.

The ambassador was accompanied by diplomatic employees of the embassy.

Presenting his credentials, Olszewski stressed that the Soviet Union's Leninist foreign policy, aimed at strengthening the unity of the forces of socialism and building lasting peace throughout the world, enjoys the full support of the Polish United Workers Party [PZPR], the government and the whole Polish People. We link the fulfillment of our important socioeconomic tasks, the ambassador said, closely with the constant development of fraternal cooperation with the Soviet state and the other socialist community states, making broad use in this connection of your rich and valuable experience in building socialism.

The guarantee of further strengthening our friendship and the dynamic development of Polish-Soviet cooperation is the unity of the aims and actions implemented on the basis of the tested principle of socialist internationalism, and also close collaboration between the PZPR and the CPSU effected via the initiatives of the leaders of our parties and peoples--comrade Leonid Ilich Brezhnev and Comrade Edward Gierek.

Accepting the credentials, V.V. Kuznetsov noted that the peoples of our countries are united by ancient traditions of joint class battles and revolutionary struggle against social oppression. Our unity is lastingly cemented by the commonality of the great Marxist-Leninist ideals and humane aims answering the vital interest of the Soviet and Polish peoples.

For more than 30 years relations between our countries have been an example of equal all-round cooperation and comradely mutual assistance. Soviet people see their task in further strengthening and developing our fraternal alliance. Precisely this noble aim finds its embodiment in the daily activity of the CPSU and the PZPR, their Central Committees and Comrades Brezhnev and Gierek personally, whose regular meetings and talks give a powerful stimulus to the further deepening of the indestructible friendship and and to the broadening of multifaceted and reciprocal cooperation.

After the presentation of the credentials and the exchange of speeches between Kuznetsov and Olszewski a talk took place in a warm and fraternal atmosphere. Taking part in it were M.P. Georgadze, secretary of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium, and N.N. Rodionov, USSR deputy foreign minister.

GDR'S SINDERMANN STOPS IN MOSCOW EN ROUTE TO INDIA

LD021353Y Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 28 Feb 78 p 4 LD

[Text] TASS--A GDR parliamentary delegation headed by H. Sindermann, member of the Socialist Unity Party of Germany Central Committee Politburo and president of the GDR People's Assembly, which is traveling to India for a visit, was in Moscow 27 February. The delegation was met and seen off at the airport by V.P. Ruben, chairman of the USSR Supreme Soviet Soviet of Nationalities, officials of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium and the USSR Foreign Ministry and by other officials, and also by M. Ott, GDR ambassador to the USSR.

UPCOMING ELECTION CAMPAIGN IN FRANCE EXAMINED

LD021245Y Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 1 Mar 78 p 4 LD

[Report by PRAVDA correspondent Yu. Kharlanov: "France: Election Battles"]

[Text] Paris--The election campaign began officially in France on 20 February when the period for nominating candidates expired. But the election struggle has actually been going on for several months because the March parliamentary elections are of the great political significance.

The papers have estimated that there are an average of 9 candidates for each of the 491 seats in the National Assembly. The number for Paris is a record in this respect: in 31 districts there are 459 candidates. In French terms this is an unusual number of candidates and it suggests that only in a few districts will one of the contenders get the 50 percent of the vote necessary for victory in the first round of voting on 12 March. The distribution of forces in the next National Assembly will become clear in the second round of voting on 19 March.

As for political prognoses, the French papers are being extremely cautious. True, the polls carried out since last October invariably give the leftwing opposition an edge. At different periods 50-52 percent of those questioned said that they intended to vote for the left in the first round, 43-45 percent for the ruling coalition parties and the remaining votes are split up among small groupings. But public opinion polls are one thing; real voting is another. Moreover, under a majority voting system, each candidate's victory is decided in a specific district, and if more than two contenders remain in the second round the deputy's seat may be won by someone who gets only a relative majority of votes.

The abundance of candidates and the appearance of a number of small, extreme rightwing, extreme leftwing, "neutralist" and other groupings cannot distract the French from the chief forces in the present campaign: The main election struggle is being waged by two camps, namely, the leftwing opposition and the parties of the present government majority. The focus of this struggle is on important political, economic and social problems. And every French person's life depends a great deal on the way in which these are solved.

For 4 years France has been in the grip of a protracted economic crisis. According to trade union figures, there are 1.5 million unemployed in the country; factories and plants are closing, the franc is declining, the foreign trade deficit is growing and the state budget is becoming more unbalanced. Therefore, the question of finding a way out of the crisis is the central theme of the present election campaign.

The leftwing opposition parties are advancing a broad program of economic and social changes. Higher wages for the low-paid and an increase in the purchasing power of working families will make it possible, as they demonstrate this with figures, to increase the capacity of the domestic market and boost industry. The nationalization of a number of financial and industrial monopolies will make it possible to limit the power of big capital and prevent the plundering of national resources. A fairer tax system will narrow the gap between the rich and the poor and erase the blatant inequality of the French in terms of income.

Although verbally in favor of certain social reforms (an increase in pensions and benefits and measures to reduce unemployment), representatives of the government coalition parties are insisting on the continuation of the current policy of very strict economy which, Communists point out, primarily hits the interests of working people without affecting the profits of the big monopolists.

By and large all the parties of the ruling coalition are sticking to this line in the election agitation. However, there are some tactical differences and some competition. Only in a small number of districts have they put forward single candidates--prominent government personalities and Robert Ersant, owner of the big newspapers LE FIGARO and FRANCE-SOIR. In the remaining districts there are two government candidates as a rule--from the Rally for the Republic [RPR], as the Gaullist Party now calls itself, and from the Union for French Democracy [UDF], which has just been created. This union includes the Republican Party, which was led for many years by V. Giscard d'Estaing, the so-called Social Democratic Center and rightwing radicals. The two government majority blocs have reached an understanding on the mutual standdown of candidates in the second round of voting.

Criticizing his ruling coalition allies, RPR leader Jacques Chirac demands a more resolute policy. In particular, he is opposed to the "trial balloons" which the leaders of certain majority parties are trying, according to Chirac, to launch in the direction of the Socialists. He comes down like a ton of bricks on the plans being discussed by the bourgeois press for a "social democratic" government in France led by the Socialists, with or without the participation of representatives of the center parties.

As is known, the opposition parties--Communists, Socialists and Left Radicals who signed a joint government program in 1972--failed in the fall to agree on clarifying and updating it in accordance with the changed situation. The differences of opinion relate to the extent and duration of a number of important economic and social measures in the event of a victory at the elections.

At the last French Communist Party [PCF] Central Committee plenum, held in the Paris workers suburb of Montreuil, the Communists noted once again that they are urging the Socialists and Left Radicals to return to the provisions of the joint program and discuss the question of updating it. French Communists, as PCF Secretary General Georges Marchais pointed out at a big rally in Paris, are ready to resume talks immediately with their partners in the left bloc. The communists regard their participation in a leftwing government essential in the event of victory and state that Communist Party success in the elections would be the best way of guaranteeing the adoption of progressive measures in the social and economic spheres. While directing the spearhead of their struggle against the policy of big capital and the rightwing parties, the Communist candidates are also criticizing the reformist pronouncements by a number of Socialist Party figures and are demanding specific pledges from the Socialist Party and a more clear-cut definition of the left bloc's future policy.

In the first round the Communist candidates will act as always, independently of the Socialists and Left Radicals. The question of mutual standdown of candidates in favor of the representatives from the left wing parties who gets the most votes will depend, the PCF Central Committee plenum stated, on the results of the first round and talks among the leftwing opposition partners.

So, the chief struggle at the moment is over the country's acute social and economic problems while questions of foreign policy are taking the backseat in the election campaign. This is because none of the major French bourgeois parties question the continuation of the policy of international detente and the development of relations with all countries of the world.

The March elections, which should reflect the true correlation of political forces in the country, will largely determine France's paths of development in the next few years.

FRANCE'S U.S. ENVOY FAVORS NEUTRON WEAPON FOR U.S. ARMY

LD021825Y Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1100 GMT 2 Mar 78 LD

[Text] Moscow, 2 March--TASS commentator Anatoliy Andreyev, writes:

It is reported from Washington that Francois de Laboulaye, French ambassador to the United States, speaking at a press conference in the National Press Club, virtually supported the idea of equipping the U.S. Army with neutron weapons. The French diplomat assured the pressmen that the neutron bomb is a "tactical defensive weapon" intended to "balance" the advantage of the Warsaw Pact countries in conventional types of armaments, particularly in tanks.

De Laboulaye deliberately omitted that: First, as NATO leaders themselves have admitted, despite possible discrepancies [razlizhiya] in the level of development of this or that type of armaments and the armed forces of the two opposing military-political blocs [gruppirovka], a military balance is preserved in Europe as a whole.

Second, the Soviet Union and other Warsaw Pact member countries will not remain indifferent, faced with violation of such a balance resulting from equipping NATO troops with neutron weapons and will be compelled to react in the same way. Thus, the armaments race will be elevated to a new, even higher, level. And again at the initiative of the West.

Is it surprising then when such a race is advocated by NATO generals, representatives of the military-industrial complex and a part of journalists for whom the fanning-up of hatred and mistrust between peoples and the pushing of the world toward a nuclear catastrophy has long ago become the main cause of their life? But a case when a diplomat advocates the neutron weapons, and does so before his government has made any statement on this questi , has probably not occured before.

It would be inte g to hear what they think in Paris in this connection.

GERMAN CP LEADER MIES URGES END TO ARMS RACE

LD022230Y Moscow TASS in English 2145 GMT 2 Mar 78 LD

[Text] Bonn, March 2, TASS--The German Communist Party deems it necessary to continue consistently the policy of relaxation, to stop the arms race and take concrete disarmament measures in Central Europe. It damands an end to the dangerous and reckless anti-Soviet propaganda, unleashed by the FRG reactionary circles, it was pointed out by Herbert Mies, chairman of the German Communist Party, who addressed a meeting of communists in Munich.

Herbert Mies went on record for the further development of FRG's relations with the socialist countries of Europe on the principles of peaceful cooperation, based on the treaties and agreements concluded in recent years. Herbert Mies also stressed that the German Communist Party came out for the policy of peaceful coexistence between the FRG and the GDR.

We believe that there is no sensible alternative to the policy of relaxation and peaceful coexistence. Historical experience shows that the policy of restricting armaments, international cooperation, development of goodneighbour relations with the socialist states is a question of vital importance precisely for the FRG, Herbert Mies noted.

He stressed imperatively that the German Communist Party protested most resolutely against the plans to produce the neutron bomb and to deploy it in the Federal Republic of Germany.

NO WORTHWHILE RESULTS FROM OWEN'S TEL AVIV TALKS

LD022150Y Moscow in Arabic to the Arab World 1700 GMT 2 Mar 78 LD

[Text] British Foreign Secretary David Owen, on his return from his Middle East tour, has stated to the press that settlement operations in the Middle East again have begun to gain momentum.

According to Owen, the Israeli prime minister is prepared to show flexibility in regard to some points unacceptable to the Egyptians. But facts show that the allegations by the British foreign secretary are false, nothing but an attempt to show the desirable as fact. Political observers believe that Owen's mission has not borne fruit. The primary aim of his mission was to help the United States bring Jordan, at least, into the Egyptian-Israeli talks and ease As-Sadat's isolation in the Arab world. But Amman frankly told the British envoy that before it is possible to increase the number of participants in the talks Israel must meet the Arab's basic demands, including evacuation of all occupied Arab territories, including east Jerusalem.

It is the opinion of observers that the talks of the British foreign secretary in Tel Aviv have not brought any worthwhile results. He was told that under no circumstances would Israel retreat one inch from its rigid position or its aggressive occupationist policy in Arab countries.

ISRAEL CONTINUES TO VIOLATE LEBANESE BORDER

LD030826Y Moscow TASS in English 0820 GMT 3 Mar 78 LD

[Text] New York, March 3 TASS--The Israeli military continues armed provocations against neighbouring Lebanon. A report of the United Nations observers in the Middle East says that in February the Israeli troops many times violated the Lebanese border and opened fire unprovoked on Lebanese populated localities. There were 13 cases when planes of the Israeli Airforce made provocative flights over the Lebanese territory. The Lebanese authorities demanded once again that an end be put to Israeli provocations that jeopardize peace and security in the area.

PROBLEMS OF PALESTINIAN ARABS CAUSED BY ISRAEL

LD021552Y Moscow in English to Africa 1330 GMT 2 Mar 78 LD

[Text] Observer Viktor Aleksandrov examines the problems of the Palestinian Arabs. This is what he writes: These problems have been caused by Israel's aggression. In 1967 Israeli troops seized the West Bank of the Jordan and the Gaza Strip, territories inhabited by Palestinian Arabs. Tel Aviv is implementing an extensive colonization of the seized lands, for it intends to perpetuate the Israeli presence. The occupationists are forcing the Palestinians out of their homes. Hundreds of thousands of people have been forced to seek refuge in other countries. The Palestinians do not want to put up with such a situation. Rallied around the Palestine Liberation Organization, they are pressing for a guarantee of their inalienable national rights. These include the right to a homeland, to self-determination and to the setting up of a state of their own.

The just cause of the Palestinians is getting the support of the peace forces of the world. The Soviet Union is a consistent champion of the interests of the Palestinians, and its principled stand has repeatedly been confirmed by Soviet leaders.

Leonid Brezhnev has stressed that a Middle East settlement must include the complete withdrawal of Israeli troops from all Arab territories occupied in 1967, the implementation of the inalienable rights of the Arab people of Palestine and first and foremost the right to self-determination and statehood. The Soviet Union contends that all the interested sides, including naturally the Palestine Liberation Organization, take part in drawing up a comprehensive settlement for the Middle East.

The principled Soviet stand is particularly important now when Israel, encouraged by the United States, is trying to supplant a comprehensive settlement with separate deals at the expense of the Arab people of Palestine. Three months of negotiations between Egypt and Israel have shown that the separatist line leads to an undermining of Arab unity and to the sell out of common Arab interests. The Palestine Liberation Organization and the progressive Arab countries have from the very beginning qualified the separatist line as one of no prospects and harmful.

They are working to unite all the Arab peoples in the struggle for a comprehensive settlement that would envisage a just solution of the Palestinian problem. The Soviet people fully support the just cause of the Arab people of Palestine, the desire of the peoples of the Middle East for a genuine peace.

NO CHANGES ENVISAGED IN ISRAELI SETTLEMENTS POLICY

LD021659Y Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 1 Mar 78 p 3 LD

[V. Vinogradov commentary: "Tel Aviv's Unrestrained Annexationism"--first paragraph is TASS report]

[Text] Amman, 28 February, TASS--The Israeli Cabinet has finished examining the question of the so-called "assmilation" of Arab territory occupied by Israel in 1967. A resolution not to change the policy of creating militarized settlement on occupied Arab lands was adopted.

So, in spite of the assurances with which Egyptian President A. as-Sadat is trying to delude the Arab public, no changes in Israel's policy on the occupied Arab territory are envisaged. Tel Aviv ruling circles have confirmed that, as before, its basis will be unrestrained annexationism. Moreover, according to the Israeli newspaper DAVAR, the cabinet has ratified a plan to create 31 new settlements on the West Bank of the Jordan, in the Gaza Strip and on the Golan Heights in the near future. In all the total colonization program provides for the construction, in the period 1978-1992, of 186 new settlements, in addition to almost 100 already in existence.

The rulers of Israel connect implementation of a course of annexation with achievement of a definite political goal--to foil the creation of a sovereign Palestinian state. At the same time, as A. Sharon, chairman of the ministerial committee on the settlements, has stated, the assimilation of the occupied territories is "good business" which promises steady profits for Israel.

AIMS, ATTITUDES OF WORLD ZIONIST CONGRESS EXPLORED

LD021139Y Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 28 Feb 78 p 5 LD

[Yevgeniy Yevseyev article: "The Zionists' Maneuvers"]

[Text] The 29th congress of the World Zionist Organization was staged a few days ago in Jerusalem, unlawfully proclaimed the "capital" of Israel, which annexed the Arab part of this city in 1967. Delegations of Zionists from nearly 40 countries took part in it.

In particular the Near East question and problems of activating military, economic and political help for Israel from Zionist circles, organizations and funds were featured on the agenda of this "supreme organ" of international Zionism.

It was precisely about this primary aim of the "Jerusalem congress" that Israeli Foreign Minister Moshe Dayan spoke during his latest visit to the United States. He called upon American Zionists, who have considerable influence in the U.S. Congress, to fully support the annexationist policy of Begin's cabinet in order "to show Arabs the unity of the Zionist movement."

The World Zionist Organization "congress" discussed as another primary question recommendations to create another 57 Israeli settlements in occupied lands in addition to the more than 100 buildings on Arab lands seized after the 1967 war.

Questions of the struggle against the ideology and practice of world socialism and primarily against the leading country of the socialist community--the USSR--were also discussed at closed and open sessions of the "congress." It is no coincidence that among the "congress" participants were the registered "authorities" on anticommunism and anti-Sovietism from the United States, Canada, Britain, Belgium, the Netherlands and other states.

International Zionism has allocated billions of dollars for preparing and executing subversive operations against the USSR and other peace-loving and socialist states. Suffice it to say that the budget of the World Zionist Organization alone, whose headquarters are located in the United States and Israel, reaches an annual total of $700-800 million. Two-thirds of this goes toward provocative acts such as organizing Zionist anti-Soviet gatherings in Brussels in 1971 and 1976 and also various kinds of "symposiums" with the participation of renegades expelled from socialist countries.

The real aims of those who arranged the World Zionist Organization "congress" for the international public are clear. Indeed, Zionism is branded by the United Nations as a form of racism and racial discrimination.

The peoples decisively condemn the Zionists' provocative maneuvers, just as they condemn Israel's aggression against the Arab countries and Tel Aviv's attempts to perpetuate the occupation of foreign lands.

BRIEFS

SYRIAN LAND RECLAMATION--Moscow, February 21, TASS--A large area of irrigated farming is to be established in the basin of the river northern Kebir in Syria. A big hydro-engineering complex is to be built there under a project prepared for Syria by Soviet specialists. The complex is to be built in the course of four years. The first stage of construction work is to be completed in 1979 to make possible for irrigation of over three thousand hectares of land. [Moscow TASS in English 1331 GMT 21 Feb 78 LD]

EASTERN MEDITERRANEAN

CYPRUS HEARINGS REVEAL FALSITY OF EGYPTIAN STATEMENTS

LD022323Y Moscow TASS in English 2245 GMT 2 Mar 78 LD

[Excerpt] Nicosia, March 2, TASS--The hearings of the case of the two terrorists who assassinated on February 18 Yusuf as-Siba'i, secretary general of the Afro-Asian Peoples' Solidarity Organisation and captured as hostages a big group of the participants of the session of this organization's presidium, held in the Cyprus capital, are continuing here.

Testifying before the court, the pilot of the plane, belonging to the Cyprus air company, in which the hostages were kept, said that the detachment of Egyptian commandos landed on Cyprus attacked the Larnaca airport at the time when the talks on the release of the hostages had been successfully completed.

The testimony of the pilot confirms once again the falsehood of the statements made by the Egyptian officials and propaganda organs to the effect that Cairo's military venture in Larnaca, which cost the lives of 15 commandos, was allegedly necessary to save the persons captured by the terrorists.

Striving to divert attention from the failure of the criminal action committed in violation of the sovereignty of Cyprus, the Egyptian leadership ruptured diplomatic relations with Cyprus and launched in its country an unprecedentedly broad anti-Palestinian campaign, accusing the Palestine resistance movement of involvement in the Larnaca incident, although the Palestine Liberation Organization had categorically denied these slanderous fabrications. By stirring up hostility towards the Palestinians, the As-Sadat regime is obviously striving to cover up its own betrayal of the interests of the Arab people of Palestine and to pave the way to the conclusion of a separate peace with Israel.

VARIOUS ASPECTS OF USSR-TURKISH RELATIONS VIEWED

LD021304Y Moscow TASS in English 1030 GMT 2 Mar 78 LD

[Text] Moscow, March 2 TASS--Soviet-Turkish cooperation is assuming a stable and long-term nature, writes the magazine AZIYA I AFRIKA SEGODNYA (ASIA AND AFRICA TODAY). The trade turnover between the two countries rose in the seventies by 150 per cent.

Major projects built with Soviet assistance, such as the Iskenderun metal work, an oil refinery near Izmir, the Seydis[illegible] aluminium plant and others, play an important role in Turkey's industrialisation. These enterprises will be expanded in accordance with new agreements.

Cultural ties between the two countries are being actively expanded. An interparliamentary society of cooperation with the Soviet Union, whose purpose is to assist the development of goodneighbourly relations with the USSR, was formed last year on the initiative of a group of Turkish MP's.

Facts show that Soviet-Turkish relations are being enriched by political contents, the magazine wrote. It was pointed out at the 25th CPSU Congress that cooperation between the USSR and Turkey is gradually spreading from the predominantly economic sphere to political matters. The strengthening of such relations promotes the cause of peace, detente and development of international cooperation.

FURTHER MATERIAL ON 'INTERNAL SETTLEMENT' IN RHODESIA

U.S. Statement

LD021625Y Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 1 Mar 78 p 5 LD

[Correspondent Ye. Rusakov report: "Fruit of Diplomatic 'Gestures'"]

[Text] New York, 28 February--The U.S. Department of State has said that the deal between I. Smith, head of the racist regime in Rhodesia, and local African collaborationists is "an important step." The well-known television commentator W. Cronkite described this statement as a "softening" of Washington's position, while the New York TIMES said it "is a departure from the serious objections voiced last week." The point is that immediately after the announcement of the deal in Salisbury A. Young, the U.S. permanent UN representative, called the "internal settlement" in Salisbury, which is an attempt to bypass the Zimbabwe Patriotic Front, a step leading to "civil war among the blacks" in Rhodesia. The U.S. representative essentially admitted that the deal in Salisbury was designed to set the so-called "moderate" African leaders over the true representatives of the people of Zimbabwe for the sake of the selfish aims of I. Smith's racist regime.

A. Young's first reaction was a manifestation of the diplomacy of cultivating pro-Western African regimes and flirting with the progressive countries of this continent. To this end Washington, with London, undertook the friutless intrigue involving talks on the "settlement" of the Rhodesian problem and talks between five Western powers and South Africa on Namibia.

The maneuvers connected with the talks were designed to prevent development of the national liberation struggle, including the guerrilla struggle, to sow the illusion of the possibility of a "settlement" with Western mediation and in the final analysis pave the way for establishment of pro-Western puppet governments in Rhodesia and Namibia.

The U.S. Department of State's statement which contains flattering references to the deal in Salisbury, has put all things in their place, showing the value of the diplomacy of "gestures." It has proved "an important step" on the path of recognition of the deal. It is no accident that the United States used the same expression ("important step") employed by D. Owen, British foreign secretary, who stated unambiguously that the deal in Salisbury "could be acceptable" to the British Government. So far Washington has not expressed itself so openly, but this is evidently only a matter of time.

The diplomacy of "gestures," as was to be expected, has proved on checking to be a diversionary maneuver. Nor could it be otherwise: The growth of the national liberation struggle threatens U.S. economic and military strategic interests in Africa.

Reaction of Africans

LD021114Y Moscow TASS in English 0925 GMT 2 Mar 78 LD

[Text] New York, March 2 TASS--TASS correspondent Vladimir Matyash reports:

A group of African countries at the United Nations, which unites almost 50 independent African states, demanded an urgent meeting in the U.N. Security Council to consider the situation in Rhodesia in the context of the collusion in Salisbury between Ian Smith, the leader of the racist regime, and the leaders of the splitting puppet organizations. The so-called "internal settlement" is an illegal deal aimed at perpetuating the racist-colonial order in Zimbabwe. That deal was condemned at the United Nations organization, first of all, by representatives of sovereign African countries which come out in support of the national-liberation movement of the people of the Zimbabwe.

Leslie Harriman, chairman of the U.N. Special Committee on Apartheid, permanent representative of Nigeria at the United Nations, said the international community cannot and never will come to terms with the attempts of the illegal regime of Smith to dictate its terms for a settlement in Rhodesia to the Africans. He pointed out that the only way for a genuine solution to the Rhodesian problem is to eliminate the racist order and transfer power to the African majority the liberation struggle of which is headed by the Patriotic Front of Zimbabwe.

The collusion in Salisbury is being wrathfully condemned by the leaders of the Patriotic Front of Zimbabwe. At a press conference in Lusaka (Zambia) Joshua Nkomo said the Patriotic Front of Zimbabwe is fully resolved to carry on the armed struggle against the racist regime of Smith. He condemned the stand of the USA, pointing out that Washington sides with the forces of oppression and racism in Zimbabwe.

As is reckoned in U.N. circles, the demand for a U.N. Security Council meeting to consider the situation in Rhodesia serves as another vivid illustration of the support of the Organization of African Unity (OAU) for the courageous people of Zimbabwe and their determination to frustrate imperialism's and racism's maneuvers the aim of which is to turn Rhodesia into a puppet state. Salim Ahmed Salim, chairman of the U.N. Committee on Decolonization, said here the duty of the UNO is to rid the people of Zimbabwe of the tyranny of Smith racists and their patrons and to do away with this seat of colonialism and racism in Africa's south.

Hopes of Imperialists

LD031112Y Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1005 GMT 3 Mar 7 LD

["Dangerous Deal"--TASS headline]

[Text] Moscow--Sergey Kulik, TASS political observer, writes: An agreement was signed in Salisbury today; it considerably complicates prospects for a true solution to the Rhodesian problem and creates preconditions for the emergence of a dangerous new hotbed of international tension in Africa.

What is at issue is an agreement envisaging a fictitious handover of power by the white racialists' government to representatives of the blacks in accordance with the so-called internal settlement plan. This plan was drawn up by I. Smith, the prime minister, and by Muzorewa, Sithole and Chirau, the collaborationist-minded African leaders who do not represent anyone, with the tacit agreement of Britain and the United States. The haste with which this deal has been concluded in Salisbury is explained by its organizers' desire to exclude the true representatives of the African majority, the Patriotic Front of Zimbabwe, from participation in the decision of Rhodesia's future.

According to the agreement, an "internal administration"--an executive council which will be chaired in turn by Ian Smith and the three African leaders--will be formed in Salisbury in the next few weeks. By 31 December power in the country should be handed over formally to the blacks. In effect, however, it will remain in the hands of the white minority, insofar as the administrative appartus, the police and the armed forces will remain under their control. The white deputies in the legislative bodies will also be able to veto any African initiative. On the whole, as even the conservative London DAILY TELEGRAPH admits today, "the agreement is far from giving the black majority real power."

By uniting with the racist boss I. Smith, the traitors Muzorewa, Sithole and Chirau have set themselves against the Zimbabwe people and have again demonstrated that for the price of access to ministerial portfolios they are willing to serve vigorously the interests of the neocolonialist circles of the West.

Having supported the racist "internal settlement" plan in Rhodesia, the imperialist powers are hoping to maintain their positions in that country and, behind a screen of "black government," to bring about the lifting of economic sanctions against the racist regime in Salisbury. This very fact explains the immediate abandonment by London and Washington of their own plan for Rhodesia and their support for the agreement drawn up by I. Smith.

The attempts to create a neocolonialist regime in Rhodesia despite the will of the African majority, which supports the Patriotic Front of Zimbabwe, which leads the struggle for true independence, are fraught with a serious threat to peace. The leaders of the Patriotic Front have stated that they will step up their armed struggle against the illegal Smith regime and its puppets and will struggle to a victorious conclusion. This principled position was supported by the participants in the session of the OAU Council of Ministers, which ended the other day in Tripoli, and which declared on behalf of free Africa its determination to expand its aid to the fighters for the freedom of Zimbabwe in the figure of the Patriotic Front. The frontline states and a number of other African states that do not want to be reconciled to the preservation of the South Africa-Rhodesia tandem in the south of the continent have declared their support for this, the patriots' position.

The deal in Salisbury, which has been concluded behind the backs of the African people of Zimbabwe, is another manifestation of the death throes of imperialism and racism in Africa. Only the total transfer of power in Rhodesia into the hands of the Patriotic Front of Zimbabwe can solve the problem of that country in the interests of its people and in the interests of Africa and the whole world.

MENGISTU DENOUNCES NATO PLANS AGAINST ETHIOPIA

LD021808Y Moscow TASS in English 1747 GMT 2 Mar 78 LD

[Text] Addis Ababa, March 2, TASS--The working people of Ethiopia are firmly convinced that they shall achieve victory over their class enemies and foreign invaders, which are endeavoring with the support of international imperialism to deprive the working people of our country of the gains of the people's revolution and to violate the territorial unity of our state, it was declared by Mengistu Haile Mariam, chairman of the Provisional Military Administrative Council of Ethiopia, during the celebration here today of the 82nd anniversary of the Adua battle, in the course of which the Ethiopian troops routed the army of the Italian colonizers.

Our revolutionary forces, fighting on different fronts, the head of the council stressed, will soon defeat completely the gangs of the domestic reaction, and also the aggressive forces of Somalia, which have invaded our country, the mercenaries of the reactionary Arab regimes and other imperialist flunkeys.

The forces of internal and external reaction are striving to prevent the progress of revolutionary Ethiopia, Mengistu Haile Mariam continued. Plans to undermine the Ethiopian revolution and violate the territorial integrity of our state are being hatched in the capitals of NATO countries, and also at meetings of representatives of the reactionary Arab regimes. The expansionist circles of Somalia, which have unleashed an aggressive war against Ethiopia, are an instrument of imperialism in the implementation of these plans.

Imperialism is hostile to peace and progress. The imperialist powers do not cease their attempts to stem the struggle of the oppressed peoples for freedom, peace and socialism. But the examples of Angola, Vietnam, Cuba, Algeria, the People's Democratic Republic of Yemen show that no force in the world is capable of stopping the revolutionary movement of the peoples.

The chairman of the Provisional Military Administrative Council of Ethiopia pointed to the growing number of states, rendering either direct or indirect support to the expansionist circles of Mogadiscio. However, he stressed, this does not mean that revolutionary Ethiopia and its people's army are alone in their just defensive struggle to repulse the aggression. In the course of this struggle we do not advance any territorial claims. We are rendered political, moral and material assistance by the Soviet Union and other socialist states. Siding with the people's Army of Ethiopia are all the progressive and peace-loving forces opposing exploitation, oppression and unlawful territorial annexations.

The struggle will continue, Mengistu Haile Mariam said, until the aggressive Somalian troops are withdrawn unconditionally from our territory.

DEATH OF ETHIOPIAN COUNCIL MEMBER REPORTED

LD021242Y Moscow TASS in English 1028 GMT 2 Mar 78 LD

[Text] Addis Ababa, March 2 TASS--The death of Teferra Jifara, member of the Provisional Military Administrative Council of Ethiopia, has been reported by the ETHIOPIAN NEWS AGENCY. Teferra Jifara was taking part in operations to liquidate counter-revolutionary bands organised by former feudals in Tigre Province in the north-east of Ethiopia.

IMPERIALISTS CONTINUE ARMED PROVOCATIONS OF ANGOLA

LD021436Y Moscow TASS in English 1320 GMT 2 Mar 78 LD

[Text] Luanda, March 2 TASS--TASS correspondent Valentin Raikerus writes: Imperialists and their placemen in Africa continue armed provocations and preparations for a new aggression against the People's Republic of Angola.

Armed gangs of FNLA and UNITA splitters are being formed for aggression against the People's Republic of Angola in the territory of Namibia occupied by South African racialists and in Zaire whose authorities receive constant support and assistance from the aggressive NATO bloc and from the Vorster regime. The most rabid thugs from among Western mercenaries, CIA agents and soldiers of the Pinochet fascist junta train these gangs. These gangs that have been rejected by the people and are doomed receive vast assistance from the United States, the FRG and other Western powers, NATO members, who seek to liquidate the gains of Angola's revolution, Angola's national independence, writes JORNAL DE ANGOLA.

It is precisely on the funds of these powers that criminal gangs of FNLA and UNITA which constantly violate sovereign frontiers of the People's Republic of Angola and kill peaceful citizens of Angola are set up and armed.

Imperialism uses against Angola also regular troops of Zaire and the racialist Republic of South Africa. Military units of these countries systematically violate northern, north eastern and southern borders of Angola.

A vast number of South African Army units is concentrated on the southern border of the People's Republic of Angola. From Namibia's territory, troops of the racialist regime shell populated localities of the Angolan Province Mocamedes. A large number of troops has been concentrated on the northern border of the People's Republic of Angola. FNLA gangs operate there jointly with Zaire troops based in Shaba Province.

200 mercenaries from Western countries arrived in the area in the past fortnight, according to a UPI report. Most of them were recruited by FNLA agents in London. One of the latest aggressive acts in the area was a raid of the Zaire troops on Angolan villages Nhamutenga and Sabasaba which caused loss of life among the peaceful population. According to the data of the Defence Ministry of the People's Republic of Angola, there were 23 violations of the borders and air space of the People's Republic of Angola by Zaire troops from October of last year to January of this year, and South African troops staged 17 serious aggressive acts against the People's Republic of Angola from August to February.

These provocative actions, says the Angolan national radio, are premeditated, coordinated actions that are implemented with full approval and active support of world imperialism and the CIA.

We are not alone in our struggle for socialist Angola, against its enemies, Agostinho Neto, the president of the People's Republic of Angola, said recently. The Soviet Union, Cuba and other socialist countries are our loyal and reliable friends. They make worthy contributions to the progressive development of our country.

The People's Republic of Angola is a sovereign and independent state. It is ready to rebuff any intrigues of imperialism and its placemen in Africa, to uphold its lawful rights and revolutionary gains of the Angolan people.

ARKHIPOV LAUDS TIES AT OPENING OF INDIAN STEEL MILL

LD021205Y Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 27 Feb 78 p 1 LD

[Excerpts] Bokaro (Bihar State), 26 February TASS--Thousands of Bokaro metallurgists came today with their families to the plant's main square, where there was a ceremonial meeting devoted to the completion of the first stage of India's biggest metallurgical combine, which is being constructed with the Soviet Union's assistance. Participating in the ceremony were President of India Neela Sanjeeva Reddy, ministers of the central government and the state of Bihar and a Soviet Government delegation headed by I.V. Arkhipov, deputy chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers.

[Moscow TASS in English at 1910 GMT on 26 February adds the following: "To the applause of those present the Indian president pressed the starting button of blast furnace number 3--the last major structure of the combine's first stage. In his speech he said: The metallurgical combine at Bokaro is a striking symbol of Indian-Soviet friendship and cooperation. Today is a holiday not only for Indian and Soviet steel makers, who are building shoulder-to-shoulder this national project, but also for me personally as the president of this country. 13 years ago I found it difficult to imagine that a metallurgical giant will appear on this empty spot with several slumbering villages, a giant which transformed the life of Bokaro and the surrounding area. At that time we only dreamed of what has come true today. Other speakers at the meeting included the minister of steel and mines B. Patnaik and the minister of industry G. Fernandes, who highly assessed the USSR's contribution to the building up of India's state sector."]

In his speech I.V. Arkhipov, head of the Soviet delegation, congratulated the workers and specialists on their great labor victory. He conveyed to the Government of India and to the Indian people warm congratulations and good wishes from the Soviet leaders, L.I. Brezhnev, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee and chairman of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium, his personal congratulations and those of the entire Soviet people.

The fruitful development of relations between our countries, the Soviet delegation head declared, has proved that states with different socioeconomic systems can cooperate successfully and to their mutual advantage, guided by the principles of peaceful coexistence.

Arkhipov Group in Delhi

LD030010Y Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1900 GMT 2 Mar 78 LD

[Text] The fourth session of the Soviet-Indian Intergovernmental Commission on Economic and Scientific-Technical Cooperation has opened in Delhi. The delegations of the two countries are led by: Arkhipov, deputy chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers and Indian Minister of Foreign Affairs Vajpayee. The session has on its [illegible] the development of a long-term program of mutually advantageous economic cooperation in the development of important branches of the Indian economy and bilateral trade exchanges.

INDIAN MINISTER REITERATES POSITION ON DIEGO GARCIA

LD020842Y Moscow TASS in English 0829 GMT 02 Mar 78 LD

[Text] Delhi, March 2 TASS--India demands elimination of foreign military bases in the Indian Ocean including the U.S. base in Diego Garcia Island, Atal Bhari Vajpayee, minister of external affairs, said in Parliament. He spoke in the upper house of Parliament during a debate on foreign-policy matters.

The minister emphasizes that the elimination of bases is an indispensable condition for making the Indian Ocean a zone of peace.

India, he said, welcomes the Soviet-U.S. talks on matters concerning the Indian Ocean. We strive for full demilitarizations of the Indian Ocean, minister stated.

Bhupesh Gupta, the leader of the parliamentary group of the Communist Party of India in the upper house of Parliament criticized the U.S. administration for failing to express up to now an intention to wind up the naval base in Diego Garcia Island.

KOSYGIN CONGRATULATES SRI LANKA LEADER ON APPOINTMENT

LD021254Y Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 0830 GMT 2 Mar 78 LD

[Text] Aleksey Nikolayevich Kosygin has sent Ranasinghe Premadesa, prime minister of Sri Lanka, a telegram in which he expressed congratulations and good wishes on his appointment to the post of prime minister. In a reply telegram the prime minister of the Republic of Sri Lanka expressed his sincere gratitude for the congratulations.

USSR EXTENDS MEDICAL AID TO AFGHANISTAN

LD162104Y Moscow TASS in English 1727 GMT 16 Feb 78 LD

[Text] Moscow, February 16, TASS--The Soviet Union starts implementing the new program of assistance to Afghanistan in combatting malaria. This program is planned for five years.

The USSR will send to Afghanistan doctors and researchers; together with Afghan colleagues. They will be giving medical (?help) to the population of northern areas, will be conducting scientific research and prophylactic work. The antimalarial service is planned to be expanded. Great attention will be paid to training national cadres. The USSR will send to Afghanistan chemicals, medicines, laboratory equipment, transport. All this assistance will be given to the neighboring country free of charge, a TASS correspondent was told at the USSR Ministry of Health.

At the request of Afghanistan's Government, a similar program was implemented in 1970-1975 and the number of cases of malaria dropped in that country. Antimalarial centers were set up in the country then. Soviet experts gave assistance in training of medical specialists. The results of the research of medics of the USSR and Afghanistan were published in joint works.

In spring a group of Soviet specialists will leave for Afghanistan to achieve agreement on matters connected with designing of a polyclinic that can receive 800 patients a day and a blood transfusion center in Kabul and a hospital and a polyclinic in the north of Afghanistan. The USSR will help Afghanistan in their construction.

The USSR participated in expanding material and technical basis of Afghanistan's health services before. A maternity and child center was given as a gift to Afghanistan. Afghanistan's central hospital for 400 places was built with Soviet assistance. This year it is planned to open at the hospital a polyclinic where 500 patients will be received a day.

Soviet doctors now work in Afghanistan. Tens of graduates of Soviet higher educational establishments are among Afghan doctors.

U.S. ATTEMPTS TO MILITARIZE ASEAN DISCUSSED

LD021009Y Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 26 Feb 78 p 3 LD

[From the international military-political review by V. Vinogradov: "Maneuvers, the Pentagon and ASEAN"]

[Text] In recent days the waters of the Gulf of Thailand which border the western coastal area of the Indochinese Peninsula have become the showplace for impressive militarist demonstrations. First of all, the U.S. and Thai navies practiced an operation for a U.S. Marine assault landing on the Thai coast. This took place near the Sattahip and U Taphao military bases which U.S. troops left only in the summer of 1976. Larger joint maneuvers are now planned during which, as Adm Amon Sirikaya, commander of the Thai Navy announced, antisubmarine operations will be practiced. This time U.S., British, Thai, and possibly Australian ships, will gather in the Gulf of Thailand.

The press and public of Southeast Asia assess this militarist activity as the latest attempt by the United States to draw the countries of this region under its military-political influence. It is no secret that Washington, in seeking to heal the breach in the imperialist bloc since the collapse of SEATO, is striving to transform the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), to which Malaysia, Singapore, the Philippines, Thailand and Indonesia belong, into a military alliance with an anti-communist hue. Overt appeals for SEATO functions to be transferred to ASEAN are being issued. The United States is proceeding along a well-trodden path. It has appreciably increased the scale of military aid to countries belonging to this organization, it is intensively advocating the idea of arms standardization in the ASEAN zone and is channeling a broad stream of weapons into this region. Thus, it was recently announced that agreements had been reached with Indonesia and Thailand on the sale of U.S. F-5E fighters to those countries. Incidentally, the air forces of Malaysia and Singapore are already equipped with this aircraft. In all, according to the Los Angeles TIMES, deals have so far been concluded for deliveries to ASEAN countries of military hardware worth more than $1 billion. Various maneuvers and exercises involving ASEAN countries have been held far more frequently in recent times. It is significant that not just the United States has initiated these exercises and maneuvers. Australia--the United States' ally in the ANZUS military bloc--is actively offering its services in this field. Joint Singapore-Australian exercises to be held in March in the Australian state of Queensland were recently announced. The aim of these joint exercises, as a correspondent of the HERALD newspaper disclosed in Singapore, is "to practice the 'forward defense' tactic in the event a communist regime is established in any of the ASEAN member countries." Australian troops have been stationed in Malaysia. Indonesian servicemen are undergoing probationary training in Australia itself.

Washington's attempts to breathe the spirit of militarism into ASEAN pursue precise goals. As is known, the broad public of the countries of that region are increasingly and persistently advocating the pursuit of a genuinely independent course. However, this development of events obviously does not suit U.S. imperialist circles. They are dismayed that the development of relations of neighborliness and cooperation among countries with different social systems has begun to emerge here. Therefore, Washington is resorting to saber rattling, involving ASEAN countries in militarist demonstrations and poisoning the political atmosphere. These actions contradict the interests of detente in Southeast Asia and are preventing the countries of the region from proceeding along the path of peace and social progress.

INDOCHINA

'MEDIEVAL BARBARITY' CHARACTERIZES CAMBODIAN ACTIONS

LD021025Y Moscow NOVOYE VREMYA in Russian No 9, 24 Feb 78 pp 6-7 LD

[I. Nikolayeva article: "Ignoring Vietnam's Good Will..."]

[Text] The tension on the Vietnamese-Cambodian border has not, unfortunately, diminished at all recently. As VNA reports, since 5 February, when the statement of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam [SRV] Government on relations between Vietnam and Cambodia was published, the Cambodian authorities, ignoring Vietnam's good will, have continued the hostilities. The hostilities have been going on along the entire border, which stretches for more than 1,100 km. The Armed Forces of Cambodia regularly use heavy guns to shell densely populated border regions of Vietnam. The cities of Tay Ninh, Moc Hoa, Chau Doc and Hong Ngu, and also the populated points of Tinh Bien, Long Hoa and the port of Ha Tien have been subjected to particularly fierce shelling. There have been many casualties among the civilian population. Cambodian troops have also made raids against Vietnamese territory and have attempted to capture a number of regions. Defending the borders of their country, Vietnam's Armed Forces have made retaliatory strikes and have disabled large numbers of enemy soldiers.

In an attempt to justify their anti-Vietnamese policy, the Cambodian authorities are resorting to absurd fabrications. They are accusing Vietnam of some kind of "subversive actions," and of interference in Cambodia's internal affairs. In a commentary transmitted by the Voice of Vietnam, these fabrications are described as a direct falsification of historical facts and a reminder is given of the true history of relations between the revolutionary forces and the peoples of the two countries.

Many generations of Vietnamese and Khmers always helped each other, struggled jointly, and triumphed. When the Sihanouk government was overthrown in 1970 by the pro-American forces headed by Lon Nol, Vietnam increased its disinterested aid to the Cambodian revolutionaries. It helped to drive Lon Nol's pro-American army from five Cambodian provinces and helped the Khmer revolutionaries to create a new revolutionary administration in the liberated regions.

However, the present Cambodian rulers want the Cambodian people to forget all this, the Voice of Vietnam commentary observes. Just recently, almost all the Cambodian revolutionaries who returned home from Vietnam have been liquidated. The Phnom Penh administration, which calls itself "revolutionary", asserts that it is pursuing some kind of "special course" for restructuring Cambodian society. But in fact this "course," a Hanoi Radio broadcast points out, is a narrowly nationalist, extremist line which is being implemented by means characteristic of medieval barbarity. The Cambodian authorities respond to all the SRV's peace initiatives with increasing aggression against Vietnam. These actions by the Phnom Penh administration merely play into the hands of imperialist reactionary forces which are nurturing hope of regaining lost positions in Southeast Asia.

The development of events on the Vietnamese-Cambodian border is being followed with alarm by the public of other Indochinese countries which have a direct interest in the stabilization of the situation in their region. The plan for a cease-fire and for the withdrawal of troops which is being proposed by the SRV, the Thai newspaper THE BANGKOK POST writes, shows that Vietnam is sincerely seeking an end to the conflict. The newspaper emphasizes the positive and realistic nature of the SRV's proposals.

Vietnam's peace initiative is finding understanding among everyone who is firmly convinced that negotiations represent the only reasonable way of solving problems. The Soviet Union wholly supports Vietnam's appeal to Cambodia to put an end to the border conflict. Our country's position was reaffirmed by G.V. Romanov, member of the CPSU Central Committee Politburo, first secretary of Leningradskiy Obkom and head of the Soviet delegation, at his meeting in Hanoi with Le Duan, general secretary of the Communist Party of Vietnam Central Committee. G.V. Romanov stressed that the Soviet Union welcomes the constructive steps being taken by the SRV Government for the purpose of settling relations between Vietnam and Cambodia through negotiations and firmly supports the SRV Government's proposals expounded in its statements of 31 December 1977 and 5 February 1978. The Soviet Trade Unions, the Soviet Committee for Solidarity with Asian and African Countries, and the Soviet Committee for the Defense of Peace have expressed their approval for this peace initiative. Our people value highly the efforts of Socialist Vietnam aimed at strengthening the neighborly relations between the countries of Indochina and all the states of Southeast Asia.

VNA REPORT ON SRV REPULSE OF CAMBODIAN TROOPS CITED

LD022155Y Moscow TASS in English 2137 GMT 2 Mar 78 LD

[Text] Hanoi, March 2, TASS--In the course of a week between February 19 and February 26, the Armed Forces of Kampuchea repeatedly thrust into the border areas of Vietnam, says a report by the VIETNAM NEWS AGENCY.

Divided into small groups, Kampuchean units raided a number of populated localities lying along the frontier in the Vietnamese provinces of Tay Ninh, Long An and An Dang. Kampuchean artillery shelled densely populated border districts of Vietnam.

The Armed Forces of Vietnam and the population of border districts made a number of retaliatory strikes against the Kampuchean forces, putting out of action about 350 soldiers and capturing great amounts of various arms.

HANOI MEETING ON UTILIZATION OF MEKONG BASIN HELD

LD221954Y Moscow TASS in English 1615 GMT 22 Feb 78 LD

[Text] Hanoi, February 22 TASS--The provisional committee for coordination of research in the lower reaches of Mekong River went into its first session here today. The session is being attended by delegations of Vietnam, Laos, Thailand, the U.N. Economic and Social Commissions for Asia and the Pacific. The session is to elaborate a program of work on the utilisation of the Mekong Basin.

The realisation of work to utilize the Meki Mekong Basin will promote stronger cooperation among countries of Southeast Asia, stronger peace, independence and genuine neutrality in the region, Nguyen Duy Trinh, deputy prime minister, minister of the foreign affairs of the SRV, said in a speech at the opening of the session.

POLITICAL & SOCIAL DEVELOPMENTS

PRAVDA ON PROGRESS IN ACHIEVING 25TH CPSU CONGRESS GOALS

LD0210O5Y Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 24 Feb 78 p 1 LD

[Editorial: "The Party Leads"]

[Text] The broader the scale and more complex the tasks of our creative activity, the more fully the organizing strength and political wisdom of the Communist Party are revealed. Armed with the all-conquering teaching of Marxism-Leninism, the party is confidently leading the Soviet people along the path to the great goal, defining at each new historical stage along this path the prospects for the development of society and the USSR's domestic and foreign policy line, which imparts to the struggle for communism a planned and scientifically substantiated nature.

It is precisely such profound and comprehensive scientific substantiation that distinguishes the program for building communism at the contemporary stage devised by the 25th CPSU Congress. The active, purposeful implementation of its decisions, which have received concrete embodiment in the 10th 5-Year Plan and in the 1978 plan for the country's economic and social development, is the main theme of the life of Soviet people today, and this is what they are focusing their thoughts, will and actions upon.

The 2 years since the congress have been crammed with great events and deeds marking new successes for the party's Leninist policy and the unanimous support for this policy by the people. The 60th anniversary of the Great October Socialist Revolution and the adoption of the new USSR Constitution were portentous landmarks in the country's history. The nationwide discussion of the draft constitution promoted the activation of social life, awakened new creative energy in the masses, and imparted the broadest scope to socialist competition. The entry into force of the fundamental law of developed socialism signifies the further growth of the CPSU's role as the guiding and directing forces of Soviet society and as the nucleus of its political system.

Worthily carrying out its great role, the party is unswervingly pursuing the political course defined by its 25th congress. Practice has convincingly confirmed the correctness and vital nature of this course, which insures the further strengthening of the economic and defense might of the USSR, the improvement of socialist social relations, and our motherland's progress toward communism.

The efforts of the party and people are now aimed at the increasingly full utilization of the advantages of mature socialism. Having a vast economic, scientific and technical potential at its disposal, our country has never before had such favorable opportunities for raising the standard of living of the working people, for developing socialist democracy, and for the all-round development of the individual. The realization of these opportunities depends above all on the intensive growth of social production and the enhancement of the efficiency and quality of work which constitutes the core, the main reference point of the 10th 5-Year Plan. Its first 2 years have already yielded substantial fruit. The national income has increased 9 percent and the increase in industrial production has been 10.8 percent. Taking into account the tremendous significance of agriculture, the party is persistently striving to boost this sector. As a result, the average annual grain harvest has reached 209.6 million tons as against 181.6 million tons in the Ninth 5-Year Plan. The material and spiritual needs of the working people are being satisfied more fully. In the past 2 years the housing conditions of almost 22 million people have been improved.

The successes in the implementation of the 5-year plan's socioeconomic program are great and indisputable. But, while paying due tribute to what has been achieved, the party is bringing unresolved problems to the center of the public's attention and is mobilizing the Soviet people to utilize reserves. The results of the first 2 years of the 5-Year Plan are analyzed in depth in the decisions of the CPSU Central Committee December (1977) plenum and in the plenum speech by Comrade L.I. Brezhnev, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee and chairman of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium, and ways of eliminating shortcomings and surmounting bottlenecks are pointed out and the next tasks of the party and people defined. This constitutes a combat guide to the further practical implementation of the 25th CPSU Congress decisions.

All spheres of life of Soviet society are developing under the growing influence of the congress' ideas. The alliance of the working class, Kolkhoz peasantry and the intelligentsia and their ideological-political and social unity are steadily gaining strength. The Leninist nationalities policy is insuring the further rapprochement and prosperity of the nations and nationalities. The consistent development of socialist democracy has been vividly manifested in the growth of the political and labor activity of the masses and in their increasingly broad involvement in running state and public affairs. Many of the CPSU Central Committee decisions adopted over these years express tireless concern for enhancing the cultural and general educational standards and ideological-political education of Soviet people.

Being in charge of the building of communism, the party is striving to secure favorable changes in the international situation for the solution of our creative tasks and the firm establishment of the Leninist principles of peaceful coexistence between states with different social systems. Its peace-loving, internationalist foreign policy has elevated even higher the prestige of the Soviet Union. The positions of world socialism, which is comprehensively revealing its historical advantages, have been strengthened. Despite the opposition of reactionary forces, much has been done over the period since the party congress and is being done now to implement the program advanced by the congress of further struggle for peace and international cooperation and for the freedom and independence of the peoples.

Lenin's party always has been and remains abreast of its historical responsibility. At the contemporary stage of the struggle for communism it has been enriched with new experience of the political leadership of the masses. This great trust places great obligations upon the communists. "...The people's trust is an exacting one," Comrade L.I. Brezhnev said. "Therefore, any party decision and any step in policy or in organizational or ideological-educational work is designed to insure that the unity of the party and people grows even stronger and that the people's trust in the party remains unshakable."

The strength of the party's policy lies in the fact that it expresses the people's vital interest and enjoys their active support. The decisions of the 25th CPSU Congress have become a program for life, labor and struggle for truly all the people, a program which inspires them and mobilizes them to new achievements. The selfless labor of millions, guided by their combat vanguard, guarantees the successful fulfillment of this program and the new achievements in building communism.

VERIFICATION STANDARD IN FULFILLING DECISIONS SCORED

LD021105Y Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 25 Feb 78 p 1 LD

[Editorial: "To Verify Execution"]

[Text] The Soviet people are working inspiredly to implement the 25th CPSU Congress decisions and the plans of the 10th 5-Year Plan. The success of the nationwide struggle for higher production efficiency and work quality is being insured, above all, by the increased standard of party leadership of economic and cultural development and by organizational and mass political work.

The strengthening of organization, discipline and responsibility in all spheres, the CPSU Central Committee December (1977) Plenum pointed out, largely depends on the qualitative preparation of decisions and control of their execution. Being a very important part of organizational work, well-organized verification of execution contributes to the strict implementation of party policy and to the attainment of the highest results with minimum expenditure.

The experience of Moskovskiy Obkom is instructive. The obkom bureau and its sections regularly analyze efforts to fulfill the key economic and social tasks set by the 25th party congress. The obkom, gorkom and raykom's problems are characterized by a long-term, comprehensive approach to resolving them--which makes it possible to concentrate efforts on the main directions and to study the state of affairs in greater depth. Having adopted a particular decision, the committee formulates practical measures for its implementation and clearly defines times and the persons responsible. Experience of the verification of execution is studied carefully. In particular, an oblast science and practice conference was devoted to this recently. It was pointed out that effective control plays a determining role in the successful implementation of measures connected with the CPSU Central Committee and USSR Council of Ministers resolution on the development of agriculture in the Non-Chernozem Zone.

Unity of organization and verification of execution is an inalienable feature of the Leninist work style. In the process of preparing a question for examination many party committees endeavor not only to reveal shortcomings but also to help eliminate them and to find reserves for improving the matter. This principle remains true even after the adoption of a decision. It is not, however, applied consistently everywhere. Sometimes the verifiers--representatives of the committee--act from the position of some kind of inspector and reduce control to the simple recording of omissions. The following also happens: Having adopted a decision, the committee does not hasten to fulfill it, but it is later discovered that time has been lost and far from everything can be made good with the help of rush work.

In a number of rayons in the Pskov district, for example, measures were planned for the purpose of insuring the model wintering of social livestock and they were examined and approved by the obkom bureau. But, counting on matters taking their own course, certain raykoms, including Kuninskiy, Velikolukskiy, Dedovichskiy and Sebezhskiy, did not back up their good plans with timely organizational work. The obkom was also behind with control. As a result, much that was planned remained on paper. The productivity of stockfarms began falling and laggardness came to light in the production of stockraising produce and in its sale to the state. The obkom had to urgently convene a new conference on the same question.

This is how duplicate resolutions are sometimes propagated. They are most frequently the result of weak executive discipline, lack of organization and mismanagement. Something else can also be the cause of failure: A superficial approach to the matter and inadequate substantiation of the proposed measures. A paper with general, declarative appeals sees the light of day if people fail to properly investigate the essence of a question. An empty decision is usually accompanied by useless methods of control; a routine rebuke instead of businesslike advice, or help at work is replaced by administrative pressure. It is clear that such methods are incompatible with party style and hinder the development of initiative and the enhancement of the responsibility of cadres. In such a situation any complication is frequently passed off as an insurmountable obstacle and "objective reasons" are used to account for any blunder.

The party orients communists toward seeing that unity of word and deed is insured everywhere and that the correct political line is invariably combined with organizational efforts. It must be remembered that true vitality is acquired only by decisions which come into being on the basis of a scientific analysis of phenomena and comprehensive regard for opinions and which contain profoundly thought-out recommendations.

Organization of execution is, above all, work with people. It is precisely in practice that the qualities of a communist and his ability to raise the masses to realize the set tasks are verified. Combining principled exactingness with confidence, the party committee is called upon persistently to enhance the businesslike efficiency and organization of cadres and to try to insure that, as V.I. Lenin taught, sufficiently authoritative and knowledgeable people head the verification and that leaders of all ranks personally engage in it. It is very important to raise the role of committee members both in preparing decisions and in organizing their fulfillment. The correct action is taken where people's control organs and the broad aktiv are also involved in this work of paramount importance, coordinating and directing their activities.

Party committees are increasingly shifting the center of gravity of organizational and educational work into the labor collectives. The fate of any matter depends primarily on the working people's creative activity. Nonetheless, we still encounter instances where, having adopted a decision, people are not interested in whether it has reached those who must directly fulfill it. Can a high return be expected in such cases? Sound success is insured by concern to see that everyone well understands the essence of the planned measures, accurately knows his responsibility and sees the perspective. Consequently, it is a question of a practical demonstration and of learning from experience. For example, the fruitful work of the party organizations of many Latvian production associations was promoted by thorough study and the general experience of the party committee of the progressive "Kommutator" association at the central committee of the republic communist party. Using this example, the necessity to act under the new conditions and to make effective use of the advantage of a large economic complex was shown.

Constantly improving the forms and methods of control and strictly observing the Leninist demand for unity of organization and verification of execution, party committees are insuring the successful fulfillment of tasks of economic and cultural building and the working people's communist education.

ACADEMY OF SCIENCES STATEMENT CONDEMNS NEUTRON BOMB

LD021856Y Moscow TASS in English 1804 GMT 2 Mar 78 LD

[Text] Moscow, March 2, TASS--The Soviet scientists have launched a protest against the intention of the United States ruling circles to start the production and deployment of the new mass annihilation weapon--the neutron bomb.

The statement, adopted today at the general meeting of the Academy of Sciences of the USSR, says that the "production and deployment of the neutron bomb may substantially increase the danger of nuclear war".

In the opinion of Soviet scientists, the neutron bomb will inevitably bring about a new more intensive and dangerous round of the arms race. The Soviet scientists demand that the neutron weapons should be banned.

MASHEROV CITES CINEMA'S STRENGTH AS EDUCATIONAL MEDIUM

LD031401Y Minsk SOVETSKAYA BELORUSSIYA in Russian 22 Feb 78 p 1 LD

[Excerpt] BELTA--On 21 February, Comrade P. M. Masherov, candidate member of the CPSU Central Committee Politburo and first secretary of the Belorussian CP Central Committee, received a group of participants in a Minsk seminar of journalists who write on literature and art.

In the talks P. M. Masherov told the guests about Belorussia's achievements in developing the economy, science and culture, and of the work in the republic aimed at intensifying the moral and aesthetic education of working people. An important place in this work is allocated to the cinema--the party's combat assistant in molding the communist world outlook of the Soviet person and enriching the artistic culture of the people in light of the 25th CPSU Congress decisions.

Great attention was paid to problems of creating vivid and substantial productions concerning modern times and the comprehensive and profound revelation on screen of a hero of our times--a person who is a creator, originator and active fighter for the implementation of communist ideals. The role of criticism and the mass media in solving these problems, and the need for widespread propagandization of movie productions among the population and more active utilization of the cinema as the most important means of communist education of the new person, were also discussed.

ROMANOV ATTENDS LENINGRAD CITY SOVIET MEETING

LD030004Y Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1900 GMT 2 Mar 78 LD

[Text] A session of Leningrad City Soviet of People's Deputies today discussed the further improvement of labor training, education and professional orientation in general education schools. The session also discussed the training of workers cadres in the system of vocational-technical education in light ofthe demands of the 25th CPSU Congress.

Taking part in the work of the session was Romanov, member of the CPSU Central Committee Politburo and first secretary of the Leningrad Obkom.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENTS

SOVIET WORKERS' LIVING STANDARDS CONTINUE TO IMPROVE

LD021930Y Moscow TASS in English 1906 GMT 2 Mar 78 LD

[Text] Moscow, March 2, TASS--The average monthly wages of Soviet factory and office workers grew last year to 155 roubles. If taken together with the grants and allowances from the social consumption funds, they will amount to 212 roubles, a TASS correspondent was told at the committee for labour and wages of the USSR.

The wages are the main source of incomes of the Soviet population. Their size depends on the quantity and quality of labour, on the growth of labor productivity. The wages are increased as soon as society accumulates the necessary material and finanacial resources. Thus, the raising of minimum wages to 70 roubles a month was completed last year on all the territory of the USSR.

The social consumption funds are used to finance free-of-charge medical services to the population, all forms of education, pensioning and other social benefits. Last year these funds reached the tremendous sum of about 100,000 million roubles.

The production of consumer goods will grow at priority rates, exceeding those of the growth of real incomes by six percent in the current five-year plan period (1976-1980). The Soviet people are being provided with annually increasing quantities of elegant and practical clothing, fashionable shoes and other high-quality commodities. Growing at a particularly dynamic rate is the output of furniture, television sets, refrigerators, washing machines. This growth is directly linked with the huge scope of housing construction in the USSR. This is perfectly natural, since people, moving into new flats, wish to buy new furniture and household appliances. Up to eleven million house-warming parties are annually held in the USSR.

The purchasing power of the Soviet rouble is stable. The living standards of the Soviet people now increase on the average of 25 percent every five years.

BRIEFS

MAYSKIY GRES--Preparations are being made to assembly one more power unit, a gas turbine installation, at the Mayskiy GRES in Sovetskaya Gavan. The GRES is the country's first station which uses high-capacity gas turbines to generate electric power. The second stage of the gas turbine complex will be put into operation by the end of September. The assembly and adjustment of the new turbine will be completed by the end of June. [Khabarovsk Domestic Service in Russian 0930 GMT 1 Mar 78 OW]

BIBOBIDZHAN POWER TRANSFORMERS--The Birobidzhan power transformer plant has produced a unique transformer with a capacity of 40,000 kilovolt-amperes on orders from the USSR Ministry of Electrical Equipment Industry. The transformer will be used by one of the country's scientific research institutes. The plant is also producing power transformers ranging in capacity from 160 to 6,300 kilovolt-amperes and voltage regulators for black and white and color television sets. The plant supplies its products to construction workers in Cuba and petroleum workers in Argentina. [Khabarovsk Domestic Service in Russian 0930 GMT 1 Mar 78 OW]

ARMENIAN CIVIL AVIATION--The Armenian Administration of Civil Aviation has announced the beginning of its 45th air route, which will connect Leninakan with Krasnodar. The first scheduled flight took place today. There will be four flights a week by Yak-40 aircraft between Leninakan and Krasnodar. Today's flight from Leninakan to Krasnodar lasted 1 hour and 50 minutes. [Excerpt] [Yerevan Domestic Service in Armenian 1830 GMT 1 Mar 78 MC]

AGRICULTURAL AFFAIRS

RADIO REPORTS 1-3 MAR AGRICULTURAL PROGRESS

LD030700 [Editorial report LD] Moscow Domestic Service in Russian at 0500 GMT on 1 March reports that farmers in the Crimea will be cultivating and harrowing the soil to retain moisture due to expected high temperatures. This will be followed by the selective sowing of early spring crops. More than 2,500 hectares in the Crimea have already been sown to barley, grass mixtures--zlakovaya smes--and oats.

At 0300 GMT on 2 March, the radio notes that spring fieldwork has begun in Kirgizia's Issyk-Kulskaya Oblast. Another 2,500 hectares of irrigated land has been made available there, and farmers can obtain yields of 45 quintals of grain per hectare on such irrigated land. High quality seeds of wheat and other crops have been prepared for sowing.

At 0500 GMT, the radio reports that farms in southern Tadzhikistan have already begun sowing spring crops, vegetables and potatoes. Winter shoots of wheat and barley are beginning to grow in southern Kazakhstan as the snow there melts. These crops have been sown on an area of 1.5 million hectares. Nowadays mineral fertilizers are being spread, and land improvement workers have begun spring work there. This year 30 million hectares of land in the republic are to be sown to various crops.

Finally Moscow Radio at 0200 GMT on 3 March, in its review of the Soviet central press, cites PRAVDA on the preparation of seeds for sowing. In the third year of the 5-year plan, kolkhozes and sovkhozes have resolved to bring the gross grain yield to 220 million tons. New targets are being set by farmers in the Kuban area, who have resolved to obtain 8.5 million tons of grain. Ukrainian farmers will increase their grain yield by 20 percent in comparison with the average annual level of the Ninth 5-Year Plan. On the whole, 102 percent of the seeds for spring graincrops have been secured.

In another part of the press review, the radio cites a SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA editorial on the preparations for spring fieldwork. This year the gross grain yield in the RSFSR will be brought to 130 million tons, which is 26 percent more than the average annual yield in the Ninth 5-Year Plan. Considerably greater quantities of other crops than last year are to be sold to the state as well.

HEAVY SNOWFALLS IN KAZAKHSTAN PROMISES GOOD CROPS

AU021205Y Alma Ata Domestic Service in Russian 1510 GMT 1 Mar 78 AU

[Summary] "Heavy snowfalls marked the first spring day in Kazakhstan. Snow storms raged over the republic's vast spaces and in Alma Ata and its environs. Following the recent (?mild) days, the snowfall was heavier than on any winter day." Deep snow promises abundant crops, and this is particularly true in Kazakhstan. Winter moisture accumulated in the fields will stimulate the growth of winter and spring crops in the spring season.

MOLNIYA-1 COMMUNICATIONS SATELLITE LAUNCHED 3 MAR

LD030834Y Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 0802 GMT 3 Mar 78 LD

[Text] Moscow, 3 March TASS--The launching of a routine communications satellite Molniya-1 was carried out in the Soviet Union today. The Molniya-1 communications satellite is intended to relay long-range telephone and telegraph radio communications; it will also broadcast programs of USSR Central Television to points on the Orbital network situated in the regions of the extreme north, Siberia, the Far East and Central Asia.

The satellite has been put into a high elliptical orbit with an apogee of 40,733 kilometers in the northern hemisphere and a perigee of 632 kilometers in the southern hemisphere. The period of rotation of the satellite is 12 hours, 18 minutes; inclination of orbit 62.8 degrees.

Apart from apparatus on board the satellite for transmitting television programs and carrying our long-range multichannel radio communications, a guidance and measuring complex apparatus has been installed together with a system for orientation, correction of orbit and power supply for the satellite.

According to data received, the apparatus on board the satellite is functioning normally, and communications tests via the Molniya-1 satellite will be carried out in accordance with the fixed program.

SALYUT-6 COMPLEX CONTINUES FLIGHT, EXPERIMENTS

LD031048Y Moscow TASS in English 1040 GMT 2 Mar 78 LD

[Text] Moscow, March 2 TASS--TASS special correspondent reports from the flight control centre: The crew of the orbital research complex Salyut-6-Soyuz-27 continues conducting the planned research and experiments. On today's programme of cosmonauts Yuriy Romanenko and Georgiy Grechko are visual observations and photography of different areas of the earth's surface and ocean.

Biological experiments to study the development of micro-organism and tissue culture in conditions of space flight continue on board the complex.

According to the results of a medical check-up made yesterday, the cosmonauts' health is in a good state. Yuriy Romanenko has the pulse-rate of 62 beats per minute and Georgiy Grechko the pulse-rate of 67 beats per minute. The arterial perssure is respectively 135 by 70 and 130 by 65 millimeters of a mercury column.

The flight of the orbital research complex Salyut-6-Soyuz-27 continues.

SOYUZ-28 LAUNCHED WITH CZECHOSLOVAK COSMONAUT ABOARD

LD021738Y Moscow TASS in English 1721 GMT 2 Mar 78 LD

[Text] Moscow, March 2, TASS--A spaceship, Soyuz-28, was launched in the Soviet Union at 18 hours 28 minutes Moscow time today.

The Soviet spaceship, which was put into orbit around the Earth, is piloted by an international crew consisting of Aleksey Gubarev, the ship's commander, Hero of the Soviet Union, cosmonaut flier of the USSR, and Vladimir Remek, cosmonaut researcher, a citizen of Czechoslovakia.

With the launching of the Soyuz-28, a new stage is opened in the exploration and use of outer space for peaceful purposes jointly by the socialist countries under the Intercosmos cooperation program which involves Bulgaria, Hungary, the GDR, Cuba, Mongolia, Poland, Romania, the USSR and Czechoslovakia. It is also planned under the Intercosmos program to launch in 1978 spaceships of the Soyuz type with their drews to include representatives of Poland and the GDR. Under a single scientific and technical research program of the orbital scientific complex, based on the Salyut-6 station, the cosmonauts of the socialist countries are to carry out missions of increasing volume and complexity. Space flights by citizens of other socialist countries, members of the Intercosmos program, are planned.

The Soyuz-28 mission provides for the docking of this spaceship with the Salyut-6 Soyuz-27 orbital scientific complex and for joint investigations together with the cosmonauts Yuriy Romanenko and Georgiy Grachko, who have been working in outer space since December 10, 1977.

The cosmonauts feel well and the ship's onboard systems are functioning normally. The Soyuz-28 crew have started carrying out the flight's program.

During the period since 1967, when the Intercosmos program was adopted, the scientists and specialists of the participating countries, using Soviet artificial earth satellites and research rockets, accomplished jointly a great amount of work in studying the physical properties of outer space, in space meteorology, communications, biology and medicine and in studying the Earth's natural resources. This work made a considerable contribution to the science of space and to the use of the achievements of astronautics for applied purposes. Joint flights by cosmonauts of the socialist countries open a new page in the development of astronautics. The increased participation by socialist countries in the exploration of outer space started by the Soviet Union, in the interests of science and national economy, offers an example of successful cooperation by the fraternal peoples in the implementation of socialist integration and is evidence of their growing unity.

Soyuz-28 To Land 8 March

LD031000 [Editorial Report LD] Prague Domestic Service in Czech at 0830 GMT on 3 March carries a report on the progress of the Soyuz-28 space craft. The report states: "The cosmonauts are to spend 6 days in space, 5 of them on board the orbital station Salyut-6." The radio also reports: "The landing is planned for Wednesday, 8 March, at around 1400 in northern Kazakhstan, the usual landing area for Soyuz space ships."

Biography of Soviet Cosmonaut

LD021745Y Moscow TASS in English 1725 GMT 2 Mar 78 LD

[Text] Moscow, March 2, TASS--Hero of the Soviet Union Cosmonaut Aleksey Gubarev was born on March 29, 1931 in the Kuibyshev region, on the Volga River.

Colonel Aleksey Gubarev has been in the Soviet Armed Forces since 1950. After the graduation of an air school in 1952, he served in air units of the navy. In 1957 he joined the air academy (now named after Gagarin) and upon its graduation he continued his service in air units. He was commander of a squadron of an air regiment, got the qualification of Military Pilot, First Class.

Aleksey Gubarev is CPSU member since 1957.

In 1963 Aleksey Gubarev was enrolled to the Soviet cosmonauts' unit. He made his first, 30-day long space flight in 1975, as commander of the Soyuz-17 spaceship and the orbital scientific station Salyut-4.

Aleksey Gubarev underwent training as member of an international crew under the Intercosmos manned flight program in Soyuz spaceships and the Salyut orbital station.

Biography of CSSR Cosmonaut

LD021748Y Moscow TASS in English 1729 GMT 2 Mar 78 LD

[Text] Moscow, March 2, TASS--Captain Vladimir Remek was born in Ceske-Budejovice on September 26, 1948. He is military pilot of the Czechoslovak People's Army.

After finishing secondary general-educational school in 1966 Vladimir Remek became student of a higher air school in Kosice. In his second year at school he became member of the Communist Party of Czechoslovakia.

Upon graduation from the higher air school Vladimir Remek, a lieutenant, was sent to an air unit where he got the qualification of Pilot, Second Class.

In 1972 he was sent to the Soviet Union to study at the Gagarin Air Academy. Having graduated from the academy, Vladimir Remek continued his service at an air unit of the Czechoslovak People's Army.

In 1975 he was awarded a medal "for service to the motherland". In 1976 Captain Vladimir Remek was chosen as a candidate for the training for a manned space flight under the Intercosmos program. Since December 1976 at the Gagarin Cosmonauts' Training Centre he underwent the full course of training under the program of the manned spaceship Soyuz and the orbital scientific station Salyut.

Shatalov on Soyuz-28 Mission

LD021924Y Moscow TASS in English 1854 GMT 2 Mar 78 LD

[Text] Moscow, March 2, TASS--TASS special correspondent Nikolay Zheleznov reports from the Baykonur Cosmodrome: The 34th Soviet manned flight will be marked in the history of cosmonautics as the day of the emergence of the first international crew. It comprises 47-year old commander of the spaceship, Soviet Cosmonaut Colonel Aleksey Gubarev, and 29-year old cosmonaut-teacher, citizen of the Czechoslovak Socialist Republic Captain Vladimir Remek.

This rounded off an important stage in the program of preparations of flights of citizens of socialist countries at Soviet spaceships and sputniks, Vladimir Shatalov, head of the Soviet cosmonauts' training program, said at the blast-off. Pilots of Czechoslovakia, Poland the GDR and were trained in the first unit.

"The examination has not been an easy one both for six pilots, candidates for the first flight, and for the examiners", said Vladimir Shatalov. "The level of training was practically the same--and in decision making the examiners took into account not points, and not even tenths of a point, but hundredth fractions of a point in appraising the advantages shown by the candidates. Nevertheless, the practice adopted in the starry township helped us find an objective criterion for forming the first mixed crew of socialist countries".

The crew of the Soyuz-28 spaceship are to carry out the second "expedition of visiting" the orbital Salyut-6 station in which Yuriy Romanenko and Georgiy Grechko have been working since December 10.

The bulk of trial operations in that station, fitted out with two docking assemblies, has already been completed, Vladimir Shatalov emphasized. All major dynamic stages of the expedition--the entry into open space, two docking and separations of the vehicles, joint aboard activities of a four-man crew, refueling of the station in orbit--have been brilliantly done.

Romanenko and Grechko are now unfolding in full swing systematic scientific work, with a Soviet-Czechoslovak crew to join it for a few days. The scientific program of the expedition was drawn up under the patronage of the Intercosmos Council of the Academy of Sciences of the USSR, which coordinates joint exploration of outer space by socialist countries.

A Czechoslovak delegation, led by Josef Lenart, member of the Presidium of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Czechoslovakia, came to the cosmodrome for the blast off. The members of the delegation viewed the township, visited the main blast-off premises of the cosmodrome, planted a tree on the cosmonauts' alley, not far from the hotel where the crews stay before the flight.

Clear, sunny weather set in at the Baykonur Cosmodrome, which can now be ranked as an international space terminal. At night time the temperature goes down to 15-20 degrees, frost, but in the afternoon snow thaws into springs under hot sun rays.

The people working at the cosmodrome are in spring, elevated spirits. Yaroslav Kozesnik, president of the Czechoslovak Academy of Sciences, who arrived here, told representatives of the joint and Czechoslovak press, that the year of 1978 can be described as the second spring of the Intercosmos program, since this blast-off opens up a possibility of carrying out, along with explorations at [as received] sputniks and geophysical rockets, a broad complex of scientific work and work of national-economic significance with the participation of cosmonauts of socialist countries.

An important stage in deepening cooperation of different countries in space exploration--this is how the flight has been described by Academician Boris Petrov, head of the Intercosmos Council, who was present with a group of Soviet scientists and specialists at the blast-off of the first international crew.

CSSR's Lenart Praises Mission

LD022304Y Moscow TASS in English 2244 GMT 2 Mar 78 LD

[Text] Moscow, March 2, TASS--TASS correspondent Nikolay Zheleznov reports:

Joseph Lenart, member of the Presidium of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Czechoslovakia, who was present today at the Soviet Baykonur Cosmodrome in Kazakhstan during the blast-off of an international crew including Vladimir Remek, a Czechoslovak cosmonaut-researcher, described this flight as a new stage in the integration of the scientific and technical potentials of the socialist countries.

The beautiful sight of the blast-off gave all members of the Czechoslovak delegation confidence that the cooperation of the socialist countries in developing advanced branches of science and technology is moving into a qualitatively new stage, Lenart said.

This is an event of great political significance, he said, because it shows that the Soviet Union does not relax its efforts to give real meaning to detente. What is especially appealing to us is that this mission includes many scientific and technical experiments of great importance for the development of the national economies of the socialist countries, Joseph Lenart said.

Cosmonauts Correct Trajectory

LD030705Y Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 0500 GMT 3 Mar 78 LD

[Text] Early this morning Aleksey Gubarev and Vladimir Remek completed their first working day in orbit. In accordance with the flight program, the international crew carried out a correction in the trajectory of the spaceship's movement. Now the cosmonauts are resting. Their second working day will start at 0830 GMT.

The crew of the orbital scientific research complex Salyut-6-Soyuz-27 are completing their 12th week of work in orbit around the earth. Yuriy Romanenko and Georgiy Grechko will start their 84th day in orbit somewhat later than usual. According to reports from on board the Soviet-piloted machines and data from the medical checkup, all the cosmonauts are in good health and feel well.

Cosmonauts Start Second Working Day

LD030934Y Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 0500 GMT 3 Mar 78 LD

[Excerpt] For the crew of the Soyuz-28 spacecraft, Cosmonauts Aleksey Gubarev and Vladimir Remek, the second working day has just started. The flight is programmed to dock with the Salyut-6-Soyuz-27 orbital space complex and to carry out joint research with Cosmonauts Romanenko and Grechko, who today will start their 84th day in orbit.

BRIEFS

PRIBOY PACIFIC VOYAGE--The vessel Priboy of the Far Eastern Scientific Research Hydrometeorological Institute today returned to Vladivostok after a regular 45-day voyage near the coast of Japan in the Pacific Ocean to study the process of origin and character of the Kuroshio Current. [Text] [Vladivostock Domestic Service in Russian 0935 GMT 20 Feb 78 OW]

MILITARY DEVELOPMENTS

OGARKOV HOLDS TALKS WITH VIETNAMESE MILITARY OFFICIAL

LD021445Y Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 1 Mar 78 p 3 LD

[Text] On 28 February, Marshal of the Soviet Union N.V. Ogarkov, chief of the Armed Forces General Staff and USSR first deputy defense minister, received Col Gen Tran Van Tra, member of the Vietnamese Communist Party Central Committee and deputy chief of the Vietnamese People's Army General Staff, who was in the Soviet Union for the celebrations of the 60th anniversary of the Soviet Army and Navy.

A warm, friendly talk took place, in the course of which questions of mutual interest were discussed.

Vietnamese, DPRK Delegations End Visit

LD021447Y Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 1 Mar 78 p 3 LD

[Text] The following military delegations of socialist countries have left Moscow for their homelands: Vietnam, headed by Col Gen Tran Van Tra, member of the Vietnamese Communist Party Central Committee and deputy chief of the General Staff; the DPRK, headed by Army General O Chin-u, member of the Korean Workers Party Central Committee Political Committee and DPRK minister of the People's Armed Forces. They were in the USSR at the invitation of Marshal of the Soviet Union D.F. Ustinov, member of the CPSU Central Committee Politburo and USSR defense minister, for the celebrations of the 60th anniversary of the Soviet Armed Forces.

The delegations were accompanied to the airport by Marshal of the Soviet Union P.F. Batitskiy, USSR deputy defense minister; Col Gen A.V. Volkov; Maj Gen G.A. Borisov, and other officials.

KGB BORDER TROOPS PARTY SECRETARIES HOLD CONFERENCE

LD021321Y Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 1 Mar 78 p 2 LD

[Capt 2d Rank M. Shashuto report: "Standing Guard Over the Homeland's Borders"]

[Text] An all-union conference of secretaries of the party organizations of the USSR Council of Ministers KGB Border Troops was held in Moscow on 27 and 28 February. It discussed the tasks of further raising the vigilance and combat readiness of the border troops and improving party-political work with the personnel in the light of the 25th CPSU Congress decisions, subsequent resolutions of the party's Central Committee, and the provisions and conclusions set forth in the speeches of Comrade L.I. Brezhnev, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee and chairman of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium.

Taking part in the work of the conference were Army General A.A. Yepishev, chief of the Soviet Army and Navy Main Political Directorate; N.I. Savinkin, CPSU Central Committee section chief; N.Ye. Chelnokov, CPSU Central Committee section sector chief; and Lt Gen V.I. Balakirev, chief of the Soviet Army and Navy Main Political Directorate's Organizational Party Work Directorate.

Col Gen S.K. Tsvigun, first deputy chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers KGB, opened the conference with an introductory speech.

Col Gen V.A. Matrosov, chief of the KGB Border Troops, and Maj Gen. V.K. Gaponenko, chief of the Border Troops Political Directorate, delivered reports.

The all-union conference of party organization secretaries, Col Gen V.A. Matrosov stressed, is an important event in the life of the communists and the entire personnel of the Border Troops. It attests to the constant concern of the CPSU and its Leninist Central Committee for consolidating the safeguarding of our socialist motherland's state borders. The keynote speaker noted that the Border Troops had taken a further qualitative step forward in their development. They have the necessary complex of military, technical-engineering and technical forces and facilities, making it possible to resolve the tasks assigned to them. Wonderful Soviet people, boundlessly devoted to the motherland, and proud of their charge of safeguarding the country's peaceful creative labor on its frontlines, are serving in the Border Guards.

Analyzing the tasks of party political work among the Border Troops in his report, Maj Gen V.K. Gaponenko noted that the paramount duty of the political and party organizations is to raise vigilance and strengthen discipline among the troops, perform individual work on a broad, thoughtful basis, and form an ideological and moral atmosphere in the collectives of which the communists are the political nucleus.

Great significance in solving the tasks facing the Border Troops is given to comprehensively organized ideological work. This work is aimed primarily at forming a sense of pride in the Border Troops in their motherland and devotion to the cause of communism, and at developing in them political vigilance, a clear class position, and burning hatred for their enemies. Questions of the international education of the personnel and the propaganda of revolutionary and combat traditions should be a topic of special concern for the political and party organizations. It is also essential, the report stressed, to intensify in every way party work in insuring the vanguard role of all communists working on the border, a role which presupposes above all exemplariness in service, training and personal behavior, and the ability to rally and lead personnel.

Communist Comrades V.M. Misyura, Yu.P. Falileyev, A.D. Bernakov, Yu.V. Babanskiy, A.G. Rudavin, N.P. Speranskiy and others took part in the discussion of the reports. The activists exchanged their experiences in organizing party political work at border posts and competition among the servicemen and discussed ways of further raising the revolutionary vigilance and combat readiness of the defenders of the border.

KRASNAYA ZVEZDA STRESSES PRIMACY OF COMBAT READINESS

LD021213Y Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 26 Feb 78 p 1 LD

[Text] At present Soviet servicemen are living under the tremendous impression of the festival celebrations devoted to the 60th anniversary of the Soviet Army and Navy. The high appraisal of the historical services and military labor of Army and Navy servicemen given in the greetings message of the CPSU Central Committee; the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium and the USSR Council of Ministers; the presentation of USSR orders to several units and commands; the award of the titles Hero of the Soviet Union and Hero of Socialist Labor to a group of servicemen, and the presentation of orders and medals to many servicemen, have evoked a new upsurge of enthusiasm and patriotic feelings.

Soviet servicemen are proud that they are the defenders of the world's first socialist state of the whole people and that they serve in the ranks of the armed forces, the combat banners of which are illuminated with the light of immortal Leninist ideas and covered in the legendary glory of victories in the struggle for the cause of Great October and for the honor, freedom and independence of the land of the soviets. And this pride instils new moral strength in them. They see their lofty duty in continuing to be true to Leninist ideas, to study military matters thoroughly, and to tirelessly strengthen our country's defense capability.

Every serviceman--from private to marshal; from seaman to admiral--is profoundly aware that the strength and might of the Soviet Army and Navy lie in the leadership of the Communist Party and its Leninist Central Committee. Thanks to the constant concern of the party and people, our armed forces are equal to the most modern requirements in terms of technical equipment and organizational structure and in their system of administration and supply. Soviet servicemen control the most complex combat vehicles, missile complexes and radioelectronic systems; sail nuclear submarines; fly supersonic aircraft, and master the methods of combat use of various other kinds of military hardware. All this makes growing demands on them. The duty and obligation of each is to tirelessly improve combat study and cultivate in himself the necessary moral and political qualities, psychological staunchness and physical endurance. Persistence and staunchness, augmented with consciousness of personal responsibility for the defense of the motherland--that is what helps in becoming real soldiers.

The main role in the formation of the serviceman and in insuring the armed forces' constant combat readiness belongs to officer cadres, who are the basis and backbone of the Army and Navy. The Soviet officer, as leader, must organically combine party-mindedness, profound competence, discipline, initiative and a creative approach to work. In his activity, he relies constantly on Marxist-Leninist teaching and on the provisions and conclusions of military science. The main direction of the efforts of officer cadres is the struggle for constant combat readiness. Guaranteeing a speedy rebuff to any aggressor, combat readiness focuses the efforts and material expenditure of the people on equipping the Army and Navy, the consciousness, training and discipline of all servicemen, the art of command personnel in controlling the troops, and much more. Combat readiness is the crown of the military skill of personnel in times of peace and the key to victory in war.

That is why maintaining combat readiness at the necessary level is the constant task of Soviet servicemen. People in every subunit and unit and on every ship must approach the fulfillment of this task with profound understanding and a feeling of high responsibility. There is a broad field of activity here both for armed forces veterans, who give their knowledge and abilities to the combat improvement of the Army and Navy and the cultivation of worthy successors, and for young officers, who were born after the victory and who take from their older comrades, like a priceless baton, their combat experience, combat traditions, knowledge and skill, striving to apply all that creatively in training troops and naval forces.

Raising combat readiness, strengthening and improving the Army and Navy--this is a complex, comprehensive, creative process in which there is not and cannot be any place for stagnation, resting on one's laurels, or complacency. Intensive organization, ideological and educational work; constant study; persistently seeking out reserves and bringing them into action; the introduction of leading experience; the decisive elimination of shortcomings--these are the factors insuring forward movement.

Socialist competition is called upon to play an increasingly active role in the struggle to further raise the combat readiness of units and ships and the effectiveness and quality of the training and education process. It has its particular features, aims and tasks in every subunit, but its essence is the same everywhere and clearly expressed in Comrade L. I. Brezhnev's words: "Work better today than yesterday, better tomorrow than today....And better means emphasis on quality and efficiency...." This instruction must find concrete embodiment in the everyday practical deeds of every military collective.

Active and purposeful party political work plays an immense role in mobilizing servicemen to achieve new successes in strengthening the combat readiness of troops. Its primary aim today is to bring to the awareness of every serviceman the content of the documents of the jubilee ceremonies and direct the high political enthusiasm of personnel toward raising the quality of training, further strengthening military discipline, and maintaining vigilance and combat readiness. Communists and Komsomol members, who are in the vanguard of study and service, are called upon to give reliable support to commanders in resolving these tasks.

The Soviet Armed Forces, which have entered the seventh decade of their development, are a mighty combat monolith. Army and Navy servicemen are closely rallied around the Communist Party and are boundlessly devoted to the motherland. In a single combat formation with the armies of the socialist community countries, they reliably defend the gains of socialism and are always ready to deal a crushing rebuff to any aggressor.

CHARGES OF NATIONAL RESTRICTIONS IN ARMED FORCES REFUTED

LD021155Y Minsk SOVETSKAYA BELORUSSIYA in Russian 21 Feb 78 pp 2-3 LD

[Article by Artillery Maj Gen V. Ivashkevich: "The Source of Our Strength Is the Friendship of the Peoples"]

[Excerpts] Imperialist ideologists, falsifying the sources of our victory in the Great Patriotic War, present it as though it was only a victory for the Russians. Some of them deliberately conceal the multinational make-up of the Soviet Army. Others try to belittle the contribution of the troops of other nationalities to the rout of the occupationists. Thus, for example, H. Dinerstein, an American "specialist" on the USSR, writes in his book "War and the Soviet Union" that the soldiers of the outlying Russian republics were in the main suppressed; that they mastered weapons poorly, and that nearly all of them were in the grip of religious dogmas and therefore, he says, were "passive." This is the malicious slander of the class enemy. The troops of all the USSR nationalities fought heroically. All the nations and nationalities of our great motherland made a tremendous contribution to the rout of the German fascist hordes.

In his book "The History of the Soviet Army," the reactionary French historian M. Garde looks for antagonisms between representatives of various nationalities within the Army and for contradictions between separate groups of military personnel. He asserts that representatives of a number of republics had few chances to "reach higher command posts in the Army and Navy." And this person maliciously slanders our army and deliberately distorts our national policy. In our country there have never been and there are not now any national restrictions in the selection or training of command cadres: everyone has equal opportunities to hold high command posts. Historical reality completely refutes the fabrications of the bourgois falsifiers.

SUBSCRIPTION INFORMATION

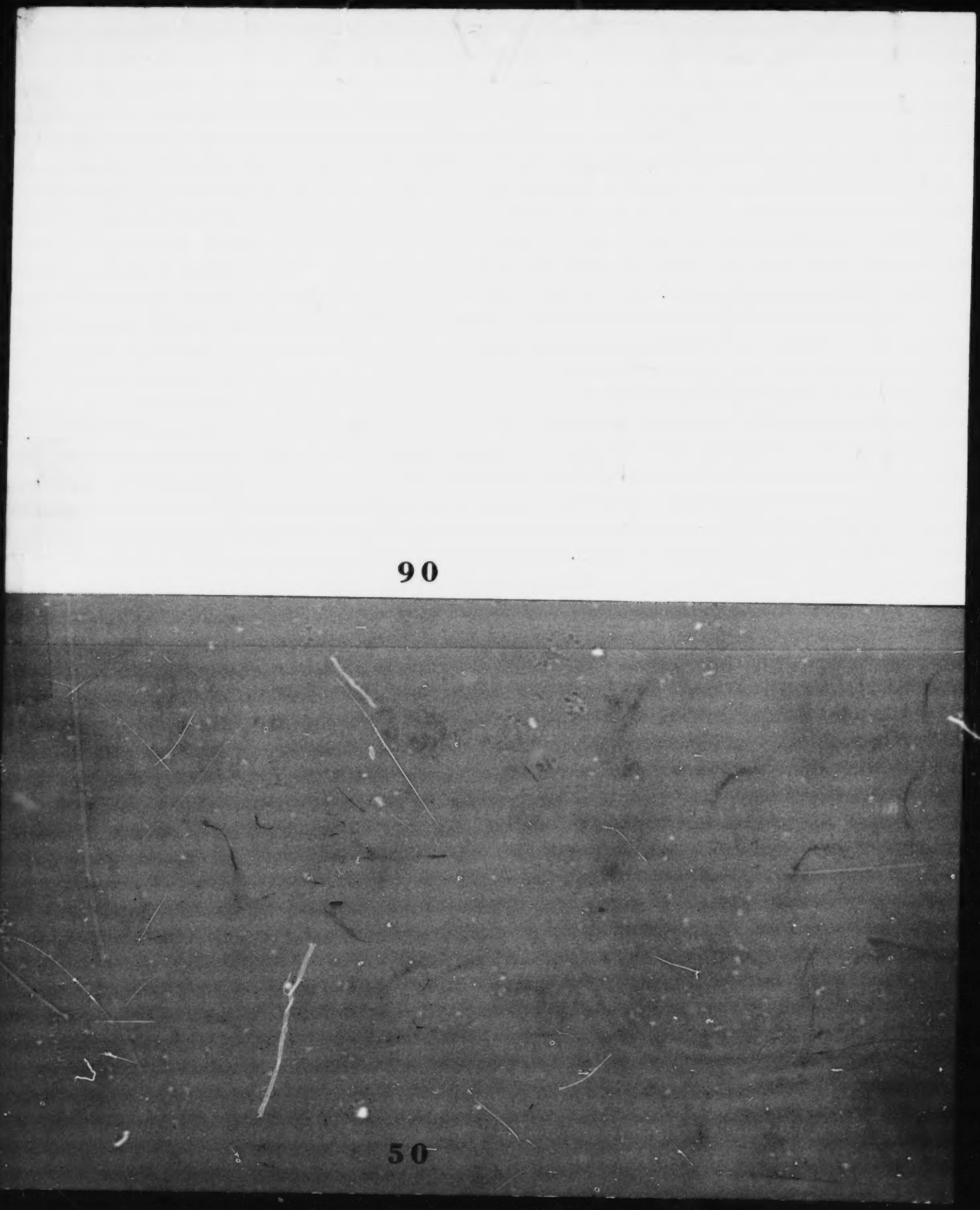
DAILY REPORT volumes are published Monday through Friday in both paper version (mailed daily) and microfiche version (mailed weekly). Annual subscription including occasional supplements is, for the first volume, $125 paper/$100 fiche; each additional area volume up to seven, $70 paper/$60 fiche; all eight volumes $575 paper/$500 fiche. Foreign subscription for the first volume $160 paper/$125 fiche; each additional area volume up to seven, $70 paper/$60 fiche; all eight volumes for $610 paper/$525 fiche. Each additional paper or fiche subscription beyond eight is $50. The volumes are: I—People's Republic of China; II—Eastern Europe; III—Soviet Union; IV—Asia & Pacific; V—Middle East & North Africa; VI—Latin America; VII—Western Europe; VIII—Sub-Saharan Africa. Back issues or single copies are not available. Allow 30 days for processing new subscriptions. Mail remittances, inquiries, and address changes to the NTIS address below.

Note: The publications of the Joint Publications Research Service (JPRS), which are sometimes cited in the DAILY REPORT, can also be ordered from NTIS in single copies or by subscription. In ordering, please cite the JPRS title, number, date, and author if applicable.

Both the DAILY REPORT and the JPRS publications are on file for public reference at the Library of Congress and at public and university libraries throughout the United States.

N T I S

National Technical Information Service
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
Springfield, Virginia 22151


90
50